

An Academic Network for Africa's Development: The Pan African University

Promoting higher education, innovation transfer and youth entrepreneurship

Objective

The Pan African University (PAU) and the integrated Institute for Water and Energy Sciences (including Climate Change) (PAUWES) are strengthened in regard to their unique features – quality, relevance and Pan-African integration.

The Challenges

Universities are indispensable partners for solving global and regional challenges by training and educating highly skilled experts and managers, providing applied research for evidenced-based policy making as well as innovation transfer to the private and public sectors.

However, only few universities in Africa are geared to meeting the continent's key development challenges. High quality practice-oriented education is still rare and often do not participate sufficiently in international academic discourse. Universities in the continent often do not foster relationships to employers and stakeholders in key sectors, leaving African graduates without access to formal employment. Consequently, talented graduates pursue careers outside Africa – their capacity for innovation is largely lost to the continent.

Our Approach

In 2008, the African Union Commission (AUC) decided to establish the PAU, envisioned as a leading academic and applied research institution to accelerate Africa's social and economic development. Comprised of the PAU Rectorate in Yaoundé (Cameroon) and five institutes based in North, West, East, South and Central African locations, as well as the PAU Virtual University, PAU aims at fostering entrepreneurship and employability, providing high quality graduate education, applied research in key development areas and outreach to the private and public sector as well as to policy makers.

Project name	Supporting the Pan African University (PAU) and establishing the Institute of Water and Energy Sciences (including Climate Change) (PAUWES)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implementing Organisations	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, KfW Development Bank
Partner Organisations	Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST) of the African Union Commission (AUC), Pan African University
Budget	TC (GIZ): EUR 14.22m (current TC phase 09/2016 – 08/2020); in total since 2011: EUR 27m FC (KfW): EUR 25m
Overall Term	TC (GIZ): 06/2011 – 8/2020 FC (KfW): since 09/2013

The German Development Cooperation (GIZ) and the KfW Development Bank jointly support the African Union Commission, the PAU Rectorate and the establishment of PAUWES in Tlemcen (Algeria).

GIZ is focusing its support for the AUC on the following areas:

- Supporting the institutional development of the steering and management structures of the PAU Rectorate including regulatory frameworks, strategic planning, financial sustainability and personnel development.
- Establishing the PAU Entrepreneurship Hub and supporting the planning and implementation of entrepreneurial skills development and incubation activities.
- Supporting coordination with international donors.

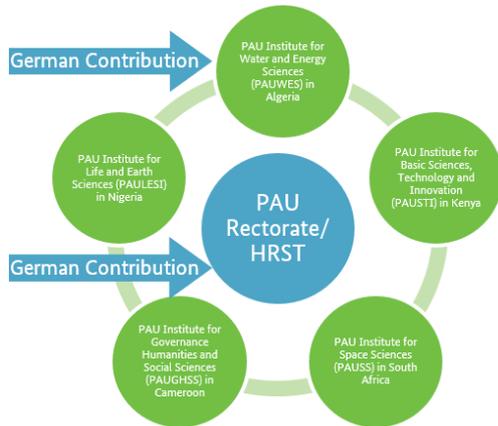




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Priority areas of the GIZ support for the PAUWES Institute are:

- Enhancing the quality and relevance of master’s courses in energy and water engineering and policy as well as developing a new programme in the field of climate change. Fostering partnerships and networking with African universities.
- Strengthening internal structures and supporting the operationalization of the strategic plan as well as advising on university management and administration. Establishing partnerships with the private sector to advance co-creation and innovation.
- Strengthening the capacity of career service activities and fostering entrepreneurship promotion.



KfW finances the upgrading of the PAUWES campus with a focus on energy efficiency and barrier-free access. In addition, KfW finances the set-up of high-quality teaching facilities and laboratory equipment as well as the procurement of ICT equipment to create a learning and research environment geared to excellence. Furthermore, KfW finances the cost of the students and academic staff during the start up period of the PAUWES Institute.

Results and Outlook

As of 2019, a total of 744 PAU graduates from over 30 African countries have benefited from a unique Pan African study experience.

At PAUWES 154 Young Africans have graduated since the establishment of the institute in October 2014. PAUWES is strongly committed to gender equality –in 2018, 50% of the incoming students were women. The four master programmes in the fields of energy and water comply with international standards and have a strong practice orientation. The study programmes have been developed in close consultation with African and international academics and practitioners. The curriculum development and review process, the consolidation of a research agenda, the selection of students at PAUWES serve as a model for other PAU institutes.

With the adoption of the Strategic Plan 2020-2024 and an increase of the core funding for the university provided by the AU, the PAU aims to strengthen the successes achieved so far while still enhancing quality, relevance and reputation. Accordingly, sustainable financing and the implementation of a demand-oriented personnel structure have been road mapped. The PAU as the continental university of the African Union shall educate a new generation of Pan Africanist leaders who will take responsibility in driving the development agenda in key sectors and supporting the social, ecological and economic integration of the continent. Graduates will have improved employment opportunities with their problem-solving skills, their specialist expertise in development sectors, and their understanding of African integration. The PAU will provide solutions and innovations through cutting-edge research. Finally, the PAU’s potential to build Pan African knowledge networks shall be seized through expanding partnerships with policymakers, the public and private sector and African communities. The close link to the African Union yields a unique opportunity for scientific policy advice. In the long run, the PAU shall undertake national, regional and Pan African policy related research.

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