



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-INRA**

Institute for Natural Resources in Africa

## Press Release

### UNU-INRA – Alexander Kwapong Lecture: **Nature Speaks**

**Accra, 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2020** – The United Nations University, Institute for Natural Resources in Africa will be holding a public lecture as part of the Alexander Kwapong lecture series. The public lecture will feature the reflections of former director of the Institute of Environment and Sanitation Studies (IESS) at the University of Ghana, Professor Chris Gordon, on the topic **“Innovation, Transition and Disruption in Natural Resource Management: The Role of the African University.”**

The public lecture is set to take place on **the 27<sup>th</sup> of February**, from **2pm to 4pm**, at the Auditorium of the **Centre for African Wetlands, University of Ghana, Legon**.

Although Africa is a continent that boasts a vast array of natural resources, more than the rest of the world, Africa will have to face the economical and geographical changes which are caused by climate change. In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and arm ourselves for climate change, Africa must find a way to produce a generation of scientists ready with solutions to the problem. In this lecture, Professor Gordon will explain why it is a necessity that African universities get into a position that helps create the next batch of thought leaders.

Professor Chris Gordon has 35 years of experience in teaching, researching and outreach in topics such as Coastal Resource Management, Limnology and Environmental Science amongst others. His current interests are in making the connection between Academia and Policymaking and finding a way to achieve the SDGs.

The lecture series is organised in honour of Professor Kwapong, for his instrumental role in the establishment of UNU-INRA as the first UNU institute in Africa. Kwapong believed that “Meeting the challenges of capacity development and human resource development in Africa holds the key to the future.”

In a remark on behalf of UNU-INRA at the inaugural Kwapong lecture, Dr Fatima Denton, Director stated that “What we want is to break the doom and gloom narrative and give an inspiring, hopeful and can-do lecture... Africa *can* manage and expand its huge natural resource base into a world economy in which it can be counted as an emerging new force”.

More information on the upcoming lecture is available on [www.inra.unu.edu](http://www.inra.unu.edu)

---

---

---

*Media Contact*

Qondi Moyo

Communications Consultant, UNU-INRA

Tel: +233 055 8211 567

Email: [moyo@unu.edu](mailto:moyo@unu.edu)

For more information on UNU-INRA, please visit [inra.unu.edu](http://inra.unu.edu)