

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNU-INRA WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

13 August 2018, Accra — The United Nations University (UNU) has appointed Dr Fatima Denton as the next Director of its Ghana-based institute, effective 10 September 2018. Previously under the leadership of Dr Elias Ayuk, the UNU Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA) contributes to the sustainable development, management, and governance of Africa’s renewable and non-renewable natural resources.

In addition to its main office in Accra, the Institute also conducts research and training activities through a network of operating units in Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Namibia, Senegal, and Zambia.

“Dr Denton’s appointment as Director of UNU-INRA is a promising development not only for UNU-INRA’s stakeholders, but for the whole UNU family,” said UNU Rector and UN Under-Secretary-General David M. Malone. “Dr Denton is an accomplished senior leader in the UN system, respected across the research and implementation branches of the organisation. She brings depth of expertise in natural resource management, as well as deep knowledge of research and policy development, and the African region, which will greatly enhance the research activities of UNU-INRA and benefit the global UNU system.”

Prior to joining UNU, Dr Denton had worked in Ethiopia since 2012 with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), which is principally concerned with natural capital and their interactions with sustainable development. Her roles included Director of the Natural Resource Management Division and Coordinator of the African Climate Policy Centre.

Before that, Dr Denton was a Programme Leader with the Canada-based International Development Research Centre (IDRC), where she managed high-impact action research, including a major climate change adaptation research programme managing over 100 action research initiatives encompassing 40-plus projects across 33 countries in Africa. She also worked as an energy scientist with the United Nations Environment Programme Risoe Centre (Denmark) and as an energy programme manager with Enda Tiers Monde (Senegal).

“As the new Director of UNU-INRA, I will build on the impressive work of my predecessor, Dr Elias Ayuk, by nurturing the Institute’s strategic partnerships and developing strong, reciprocal links with new stakeholders,” said Dr Denton. “In doing so, I hope to build a policy-relevant, high-impact research programme.”

Dr Denton is a lead author for the IPCC special report on climate change and land, a lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report, Working Group III, and a lead author for the Working Group II Fourth and Fifth Assessment Reports and for the IPCC Special Report on Renewable Energy and Climate Change Mitigation. She has served on numerous scientific committees and boards, including the Independent Scientific Committee of the CGIAR Climate Change and Food Security Programme, and is a current member of the advisory board of Future Earth and a trustee for the UK-based International Institute on Environment and Development.

Dr Denton has written more than 50 peer-reviewed articles, reports, and books. She holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Birmingham (UK).

EDITOR'S NOTE

About UNU-INRA

UNU-INRA's mandate is to contribute to the sustainable management of Africa's natural resources through research, capacity development, policy advice and dissemination. The Institute is one of the 14 Research and Training Centres / Programmes (RTC/Ps) that constitute the United Nations University's (UNU) worldwide network. UNU-INRA operates out of its main office at the University of Ghana campus, and also carries out some of its major activities through operating units (OUs) in five other African countries, namely Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Namibia, Senegal, and Zambia. Each of these OUs focuses on specific areas of natural resources management.

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