



School for Climate Studies
ISikolo seziFundo ngeMozulu
Skool vir Klimaatstudie



Workshop

(by invitation only)

Digitalisation, AI, Sustainability and Soil Protection: Multiple Perspectives

Wallenberg Conference Centre, 10 Marais Road, Stellenbosch, South Africa

Organised by the Stellenbosch University (SU) Development and Rule of Law Programme (DROP) in cooperation with the SU School for Climate Studies and the Institute for Advanced Studies (STIAS)

8 April 2025

Programme

Arrival: 13:30h

14:00 – 14:05 | Facilitation and introduction

- *Prof. Oliver C. Ruppel*, Director, Development and Rule of Law Programme (DROP), Stellenbosch University and Research Center for Climate Law (ClimLaw), University of Graz, Austria; currently STIAS Fellow

14:05 – 14:20 | Welcome inputs (5 min each)

- *Prof. Edward K. Kirumira*, Director: Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS)
- *Prof. Guy Midgley*, Acting Director, School for Climate Studies, Stellenbosch University
- *Prof. Sibusiso Moyo*, Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Studies, Stellenbosch University

14:20 – 14:40 | Putting it into a sustainability perspective (5-10 min each)

- *Amohelang-Lethabo Maruping*, LLM candidate, Stellenbosch University: "Sustainable digitalisation; climate change, artificial intelligence (AI) and law"
- *Ines Dehaene*, Research Assistant, DROP & LLM candidate, Stellenbosch University & KU Leuven, Belgium: "The digitalisation role in the soil monitoring organisation; scaling technology adoption for soil health: Focus on Africa"

14:40 – 15:10 | The soil perspective (5-10 min each)

- *Dr. Andrei Rozanov, Senior Lecturer, Soil Science, Stellenbosch University: "Digitalisation and AI processing of soil information. Purpose, legal framework, and benefit/cost analysis perspective"*
- *Prof. Cathy Clarke, Chair, Department of Soil Science, Faculty of AgriScience, Stellenbosch University: "The Soils4Africa project and its products"*
- *Prof. Ilan Chabay, Research Professor, Arizona State University (ASU) School for Global Futures, ASU Center, Washington, DC, USA; currently STIAS Fellow: "Soil from a global futures perspective"*

15:10 – 15:30 | Health break & group photo

15:30 – 16:00 | The data and analytics perspective (5-10 min each)

- *Prof. Kanshukan Rajaratnam, Director, School for Data Science and Computational Thinking, Stellenbosch University: "The use of data and predictive analytics can be a powerful tool in decision-making for soil protection"*
- *Dr. Stephan van der Westhuizen, Lecturer, Department of Statistics & Actuarial Science, Stellenbosch University: "The responsible and proper use of AI, and optimal sampling designs and sampling protocols"*

16:00 – 16:30 | The legal perspective (5-10 min each)

- *Ruda Murray, Researcher, DROP, and Doctoral Student, Faculty of Law, Stellenbosch University: "Digitalisation and AI regulation in South Africa: A soil protection perspective"*
- *Dr. Harald Ginzky, German Environment Agency, Section II 2.1 - General Aspects of Water and Soil, Germany; currently STIAS Fellow: "Digitalisation (including AI) and sustainable soil: A comparative law perspective"*

16:30 – 17:00 | Discussion

17:00 | End of workshop

For any logistical arrangements contact *Dr. Katharina Schlichting*, Project Coordinator, Development and Rule of Law Programme (DROP), Stellenbosch University, email: krs@sun.ac.za

Development and Rule of Law Programme (DROP), Stellenbosch University

Stellenbosch, Republic of South Africa

<http://drop.sun.ac.za/>



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