

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA GRADUATE CREDIT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

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| <b>Person-in-Charge</b> | Kidane Mengisteab |
| <b>Program Code</b>     | SDVAF             |
| <b>Campus(es)</b>       | University Park   |

Climate change has become a serious challenge to sustainable development worldwide. The African continent seems to have been disproportionately impacted by climate change. In addition to global warming, the African continent is facing rapid population growth, rapid urbanization, rapid growth of extractive industries, and rapid deforestation. All these developments have created an alarming rate of environmental degradation. The continent also has low adaptation capacity to global warming and is already producing a growing number of environmental refugees. This 12-credit Certificate in Sustainable Development in Africa aims to engage graduate students with the issues, debates, and analyses related to sustainable and equitable development in Africa. Students will learn about the key global and regional drivers of environmental degradation, how the environmental degradation has impacted African societies, and how Africa may develop effective adaptation mechanisms to withstand or even reverse the degradation process. This certificate will provide students an opportunity to engage with current topics from a specifically African perspective, and it foregrounds competency in the UN Sustainability Goals in line with similar priorities in Penn State Global and the Sustainability Institute. Students will receive training in development theory and practice to understand the place of Africa in global environmental change. Students will learn to critically analyze the complex interrelationships and trade-offs between development and environmental costs. Students can choose to focus on an area of study such as: resource extraction (e.g., mining) and governance, food and agriculture, water, renewable energy (e.g., solar), and development practice. Students are encouraged but not required to pursue study abroad and embedded travel opportunities on the African continent with a specific focus on sustainability.

**Effective Semester:** Fall 2023

**Expiration Semester:** Fall 2028