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## UO signs agreement with UCAD for new research center in Senegal

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The [University of Oregon \(UO\)](#) and the [Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar \(UCAD\)](#) have signed an agreement for a new joint research center, named the Senegal-Oregon Center for Sustainable Development.

The agreement was signed by UO Vice Provost for International Affairs, Dennis Galvan and UCAD Rector, Ibrahima Thioub in Dakar, Senegal.

“It is part of our university’s vision to address and find innovative approaches to managing our natural resources,” said Thioub. “This new Senegal-Oregon Center encourages our academics to connect with our national communities and find mutual solutions for a sustainable future.”

The new Senegal-Oregon Center for Sustainable Development will match UO and UCAD researchers to work and publish jointly on social, economic, and environmental issues impacting the African continent. The new center joins its sibling, the [Gabon-Oregon Center \(GOC\)](#).



*UO Vice Provost for International Affairs, Dennis Galvan (left) and UCAD Rector, Ibrahima Thioub in Dakar, Senegal. The dignitaries exchanged gifts after signing the agreement for the new SOC.*

“As the African continent undergoes rapid urbanization, accelerated natural resource extraction, and ramped-up demand for jobs, housing, health and education, it is important to address these challenges in a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable way,” said Galvan. “Through our work, visionary societies have a chance to avoid the many mistakes of industrialized countries.”

UO and UCAD representatives have already discussed some areas of mutual research interest, including sustainable fisheries, biotechnology, agriculture, forestry management, ecotourism, and urban planning.

Of particular interest are issues such as agroforestry models, biodiversity, water access, and native endangered species, in relationship to the pressures of climate change.

“We are really interested in promoting joint projects that help resolve conflicts that stem from balancing biodiversity and economic development needs. All while addressing issues that will affect the long-term future of Senegal’s people and landscapes,” explained GOC Executive Director, Eric Benjaminson.

In the months to come, UO’s [Global Studies Institute](#) and GOC will be reaching out to faculty across campus and begin matching local researchers with counterparts in Senegal.

[Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar \(UCAD\)](#) is an urban African university located in Dakar, Senegal. UCAD is a comprehensive university with an enrollment of more than 80,000 students. UCAD offers courses of study in humanities, sciences, engineering, medicine, finance, accounting, and law. UCAD maintains a reputation as one of Africa’s most prestigious institutions.