



ADVANCING A
SUSTAINABLE
GLOBAL FUTURE
THROUGH SCIENCE



ABOUT START

Addressing complex sustainability challenges, including climate change, rapid urbanization, natural disasters and food and water security, requires ambitious responses that are locally and regionally driven, grounded in science and developed with partners from all sectors of society.

Since its founding in 1992, START has provided opportunities for capacity development that strengthen scientific skills, connections and leadership toward solutions to these critical challenges.

START's long-term presence in Africa and Asia has allowed it to forge strong partnerships with universities, national and regional research institutes, multilateral organizations and global initiatives.

START engages partnerships at the intersection of science, policy and practice, to advance actionable knowledge and regionally driven priorities and solutions.

OUR APPROACH



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START inspires the next generation of researchers to take part in more integrative and interdisciplinary work.

START helps capacitate these researchers to act.

START connects passionate individuals across disciplinary boundaries.

PARTICIPANT IN THE ADVANCED INSTITUTE ON FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS OF DISASTERS (FORIN),
MANILA OBSERVATORY, PHILIPPINES

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK



ProGREEN, supported by the Research Fund of Quebec, is exploring how small-scale renewable energy systems, such as solar and biomass, can advance wellbeing and security in West Africa.

This effort engages governments, researchers, and the private sector in Senegal and Burkina Faso in generating and synthesizing actionable knowledge to expand affordability of and access to renewable energy.



START coordinates capacity building for the Global Observation of Forest Cover and Land Dynamics (GOFC-GOLD) program, administered by NASA.

GOFC-GOLD advances access to and skills in applying satellite data to research and action for addressing land use and land cover change. The GOFC program encompasses 10 land-use change networks across Latin America, Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean.



DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP THROUGH FELLOWSHIPS

From 2008 to 2016, the African Climate Change Fellowship Program (ACCCFP) promoted skill building on adaptation research in Africa. More than 300 PhD and post-doc students, policy and teaching fellows, and individuals from government and NGOs, were matched with mentors at host organizations across Africa. The fellowship experience combined research funding with specialized trainings and targeted opportunities for national, regional and international collaboration.

From 2014 to 2018, fellows from seven countries participated in the Pan-Asia Risk Reduction (PARR) program. The yearlong fellowship included a one-to three-month stay at a host institution in Asia, and following the program a competitive process granted additional funding to carry out independent research projects.

PARR provided a space for early-career scientists to cultivate their leadership skills and for institutions to connect and explore solutions to regional priorities.



From 2015 to 2019, as part of the Future Resilience of African Cities and Lands (FRACTAL) project, START supported transdisciplinary knowledge partnerships that engaged city officials, sectoral resources managers, climate modelers, and social and biophysical researchers. The project, a collaboration with the University of Cape Town, the Stockholm Environment Institute, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre and others, advanced knowledge on regional climate impacts for decision making at the city-region scale in nine Southern African cities.



OUR PARTNERS INCLUDE:

Belmont Forum

Chinese Academy of Sciences

Chulalongkorn University

Fonds de recherche du Québec

Future Earth

United States Global Change Research Program

University of Cape Town

University of Ghana

West African Science Service Centre on Climate
Change and Adapted Land Use

*for a more comprehensive list of partners:
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