



LIVERPOOL
JOHN MOORES
UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE PLAN





OUR VISION FOR 2030

The guiding principles, key priorities and themes outlined in the Research and Knowledge Exchange Plan are fundamental to our identity and ambition as we align our plan with LJMU's Strategy 2030.

The Research Excellence Framework 2021 verified the quality and depth of our activity, placing us in the top 50 in the UK for 'Research Power' and identifying world-leading scholarship in every corner of the university. This outcome signals our success in significantly increasing engagement with research and knowledge exchange, while continuing to deliver exceptional activity in our strongest areas. We have ambition to develop from this excellent base of external recognition and are developing and growing our research culture at Liverpool John Moores University to support exceptional work that is being undertaken across all areas of the university. This work is driven by the following qualities of our staff and students:

- CURIOSITY:** of our staff, students and partners to address important questions
- CREATIVITY:** employed in the way we can realise our goals
- IMPACT:** developing profoundly transformational change locally, nationally and globally

LJMU will continue to empower intellectual curiosity and creativity in our students, staff and partners that will generate impact locally, nationally, and internationally. We also take great pride in the vibrant research and knowledge exchange culture that supports, recognises, and values our activity, for the multiple benefits they bring.

Further, as a university acutely aware of its place and partnership within its local, national, and international environments, LJMU's philosophy of proactively engaging with all relevant stakeholders, will continue to underpin the co-creation of activity that generates insight as a steppingstone, through public engagement to transformational change. Consequently, our work will make a difference.

Our activity must continue to directly infuse educational content and opportunity, reach multiple public audiences, change socio-economic inequalities, support evidence-based policy and legislative reform, and address local, national and global

challenges such as human rights, conflict, climate change, health and wellbeing and technological development. Overall, the activity undertaken by LJMU staff and students, in collaboration with key partners, will continue to promote inclusive change for good.

This is our vision for 2030, this is our Research and Knowledge Exchange Plan.



Professor Keith George
Pro-Vice Chancellor: Research and Knowledge Exchange

OUR FOUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES BY 2030:

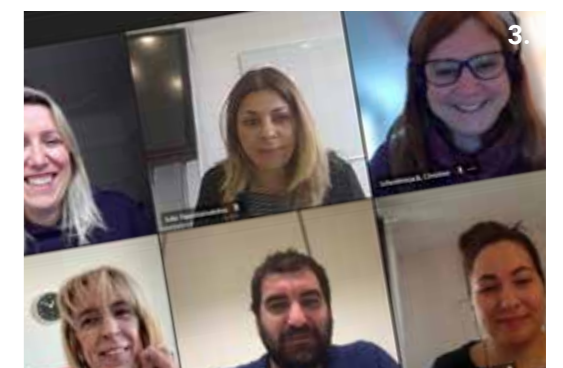


1 AMBITION

At LJMU we support and value **AMBITION** in our research and knowledge exchange work undertaken by students, staff, and partners. Our work is diverse, externally focused, and reflects the creativity of our people and the LJMU Research and Knowledge (RKE) culture.

Whether our activity is in externally acknowledged 'Centres of Excellence' or in areas of growing capacity and impact, we will provide support to unlock individual, group and institutional ambition. LJMU has the ambition to grow the quality, volume, and impact of our work. In fostering ambition, we will learn from our own areas of excellence, and we will maximise our multi-disciplinary approach to RKE.

1. Forensic Research Institute's work is focusing on facial depiction and representation at the interface of art and science
2. The Schools' Observatory is giving school children free access to our fully-robotic telescope, the largest in the world
3. TIMED a large cross-cultural research study investigating how increasing digital technology use is affecting how we experience time as individuals and in society

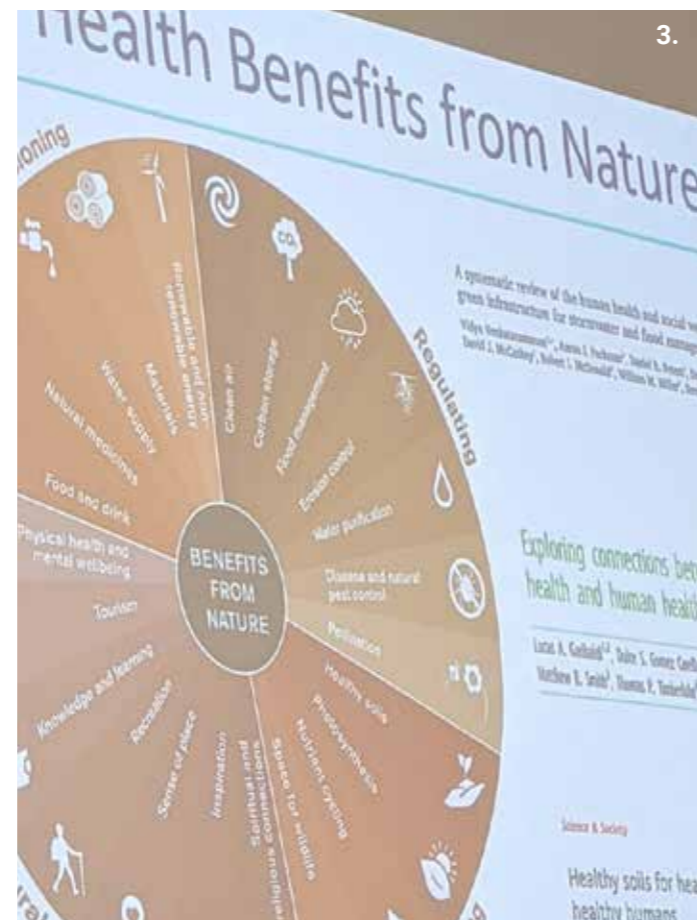


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COLLABORATION

The history of our work at LJMU has been tightly bound to a philosophy of **COLLABORATION**. This optimises our ability to answer important questions and drive translation. Collaboration in RKE work begins with a deeply collegial approach to the work undertaken by and between our students, staff, centres, and institutes. Vital to LJMU are our partnerships with all our external stakeholders, from a local to global level, as we operate inclusively and without boundaries. We are proud of our internal and external connectivity.

1. Our Public Health Institute is recognised as a World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Violence Prevention led by Director Zara Quigg
2. We are working with James' Place, a charity offering free, life-saving treatment to suicidal men. Together we are building a more effective prevention service
3. Natural Capital Hub is advising authorities in the north west and south east on using nature based interventions to address flood risk, evaluating large-scale woodland creation schemes for the Woodland Trust, Defra, the Community Forest and others and hosting the Natural Capital Working Group for Liverpool City Region which brings partners together to share data and strategies

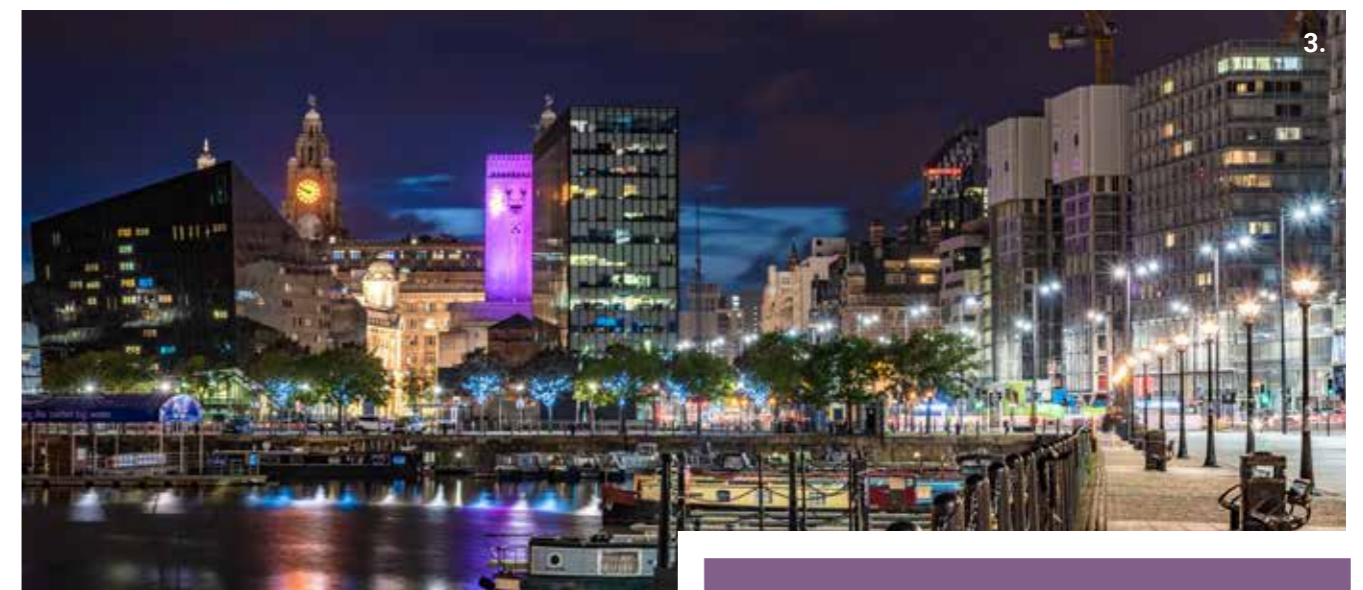


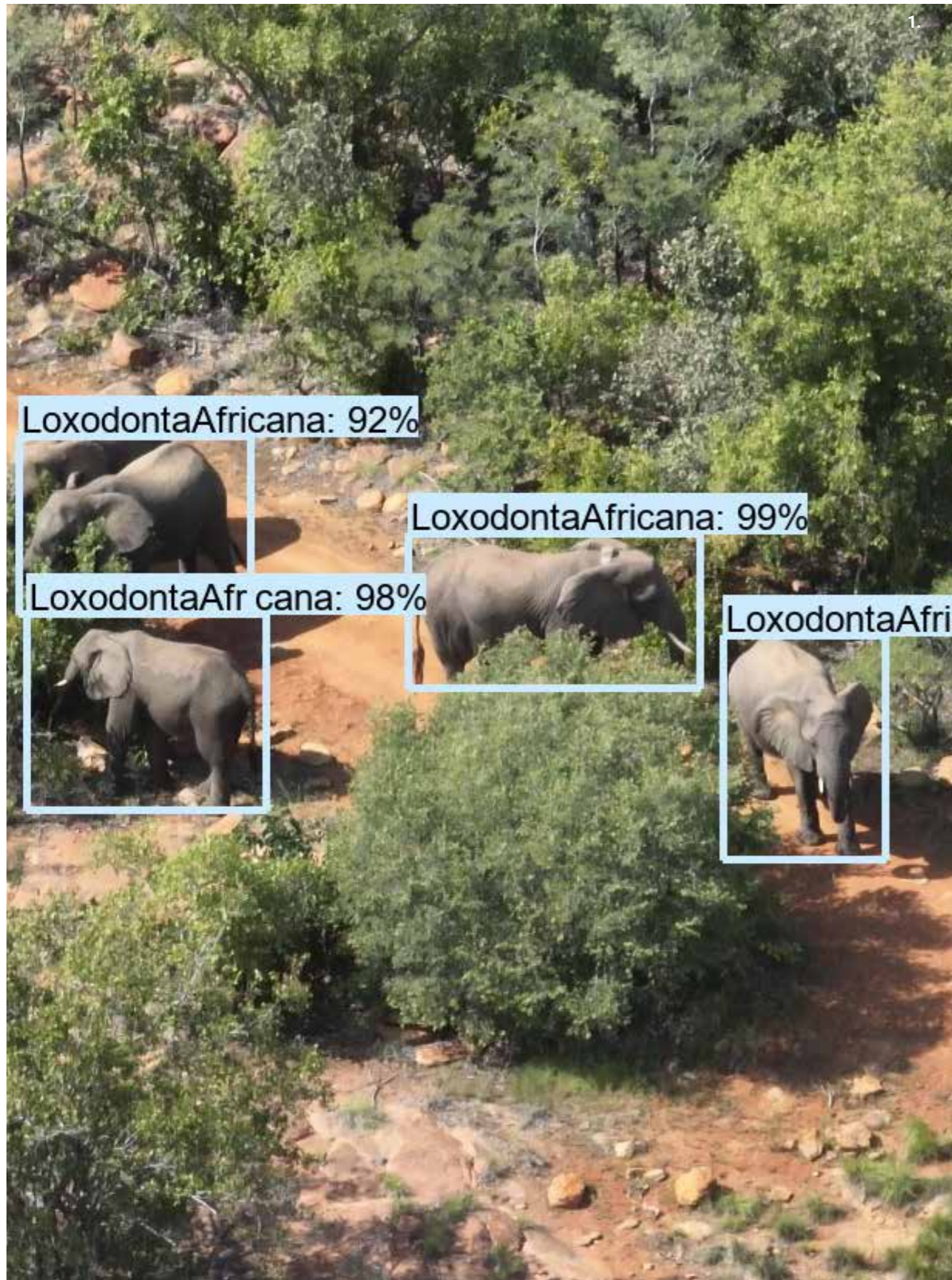
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TRANSFORMATION

Research and knowledge exchange work at LJMU promotes **TRANSFORMATION** of people, lives, and opportunities. We value the multiple levels of impact derived from our work that includes transformation of the curriculum, inspiring learning, and growing student opportunities. Importantly, much of our exchange is driven by our postgraduate research students and their supervisors. This work will transform their skills, abilities and career progression. Finally, transformation outside of LJMU is vital to our role as a civic institution. This impact is facilitated by public engagement, collaboration with multiple stakeholders as well as the important professional roles and responsibilities of LJMU staff locally, nationally, and internationally.

1. The Hilbre Island Arts, Science and Sustainability Project is turning the dilapidated buildings on the island, that had no serviceable water, sewerage or energy supply, into a centre of creative activity that will be an innovative, collaborative space for research and teaching
2. Exam pressures research investigating the effects of debilitating assessment anxiety in adolescent students preparing for GCSE examinations, is leading to improved mental health outcomes for young people taking exams
3. The Equalise Nightlife Project is improving our understanding of the ways alcohol and nightlife venues are experienced in the city of Liverpool to improve equality for women and reduce experiences of unwanted sexual attention and sexual violence in the night time economy





4

INTEGRITY

All research and knowledge exchange activity at LJMU adheres to institutional and external governance processes to demonstrate our **INTEGRITY**. LJMU has structures and support systems to engage and educate all students and staff in relation to scientific rigour, risk assessment, and ethical conduct.

LJMU governance includes work with human tissue, drones, and our Home Office License. Our Open Access Policy ensures that we meet our funders' current open access requirements as well as making our work available to the widest possible audience. We are committed to further supporting open science. We are members of the Concordat for Research Integrity and the updated Researcher Development Concordat.

1. Conservation AI project using drones to reduce poaching and protect endangered species from extinction across the world
2. The Liverpool Business Clinic provides a range of free support options for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), multi-nationals, start-ups and not-for-profit organisations in the Liverpool city region. In 2024 the business clinic are looking to support over 100 organisations on projects under the themes of digital development and sustainability
3. Our Legal Advice Centre provides free legal advice to the community



OUR FOUR KEY PRIORITIES:

Research and knowledge exchange occurs in all academic areas of LJMU supported by professional services. While our work is complex, orientated to making a difference and abides by our guiding principles, we have identified four priority areas of activity that represent our focus areas of development to 2030.

THESE WILL GUIDE OUR RKE GOVERNANCE AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS REPORTING:

1

Growth of our research community, support for research excellence and embed key concepts within our inclusive research culture.

We will support all staff, from new recruits and early career researchers onwards, to realise their RKE ambitions. This will underpin growth in collaboration, outputs, grant capture, and esteem.

2

Delivery of teaching inspired by research and knowledge exchange work and the staff and research students who deliver it.

We will infuse our curricula with the outcomes of RKE activity completed at LJMU, by our people. This will ensure the currency of our taught programmes and will serve to inspire our students by providing learning opportunities at discipline frontiers as well as insight and opportunity in relation to employability and career choice.

3

Engaging in impactful, connected RKE with our partners will ensure transformative benefits from our work.

Our externally funded RKE activity will reflect local, national, and global “roadmaps” and “strategies” and will have strong foundations in our local-international partnerships. This work will deliver high quality public engagement and tangible change for the diverse industrial, educational, health, social, cultural and public communities we serve.

4

Development of a vibrant, diverse, and intellectually curious postgraduate research community.

We will continue to grow our postgraduate research student population via a diverse set of doctoral-level qualifications and structures. We will provide internal support for the recruitment of exceptional quality PhD students, from the UK and abroad, paying careful attention to positive action where relevant.





THE CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

Our themes will act as enablers for our Research and Knowledge Exchange, working in synergy with each other:

PAN-UNIVERSITY CRITICAL MASS

There are several cross-cutting academic themes that have reached critical mass and constitute core RKE work, in that they have developed beyond the boundaries of individual centres, institutes, schools, or faculties. These areas also align with key focus areas for regional, national, and international activity and funding (Grand Challenges) and are important to our Place and Partnership ambitions. In LJMU these themes are (1) Health and Wellbeing, (2) Forensic Sciences, (3) Climate Change and Sustainability, (4) Technological Innovation.

PEOPLE AND RESPECT

As an employer and educational provider, LJMU has a clear focus on people and personal development that is articulated within the People Plan. Within RKE activity we adopt the core university values of being student focused, inclusive, courageous and caring for our community alongside our philosophy of Respect Always.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

RKE activity at LJMU has multiple impacts both within and outside of the institution. Our work is facilitated by our ability to effectively share our research with people, from embedding the involvement and participation of communities in our research, through to sharing our latest outcomes with relevant audiences. Where appropriate, RKE activity will include partners already embedded within the university to optimise public engagement with multiple audiences.

OPERATIONAL AGILITY THROUGH ROBUST SUPPORT

RKE activity at LJMU stems from the intellectual curiosity and creativity of our staff, students, and partners. In all cases however, this initial inspiration must be mapped onto a set of processes, support systems and professional services to help everyone achieve the desired RKE goals. We will commit to reviewing, optimising, and resourcing central professional service activities.

To view the full Research and Knowledge Exchange Plan, or to speak to the team, contact

impact@ljmu.ac.uk



The aim of The Research and Knowledge Exchange Plan 2030 is to continue to embed and grow a culture and environment that sustains and supports the growth of our research community and promotes our areas of excellence. We will draw upon our high-quality scholarship to deliver inspiring curricula shaped by current thought. Our work will produce transformational knowledge exchange with a wide range of partners and sectors, and we will continue to support a growing and diverse postgraduate research community across multiple programmes of study. This in turn will mean LJMU's research and knowledge exchange continues to have a profoundly transformational impact across the globe.

Professor Keith George



