



# africa uninet

austrian-african  
research network

**3<sup>rd</sup> Africa-UniNet General Assembly**

**Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna**  
**13–15 September 2023**

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## Welcome

### Africa-UniNet President Hubert Hasenauer and Africa-UniNet Vice-President Nzula Kitaka

Founded in 2020, the Austrian-African Research Network – Africa-UniNet – welcomes you to the third General Assembly, at the honourable Austrian Academy of Sciences, OeAW, in Vienna, Austria. Last year's meeting at Egerton University in Kenya focused on the organisational aspects of our rapidly expanding network which is currently supported by 67 active member organisations, 26 from Austria and 41 from 17 different African countries.



H. Hasenauer, BOKU (4<sup>th</sup> from right), N. Kitaka, Egerton University (5<sup>th</sup> from left) and the Africa-UniNet Board 2020-2026 together with I. Kibwage, Egerton University (7<sup>th</sup> from left), H. Fassmann, OeAW (6<sup>th</sup> from left), Ambassador C. Fellner (5<sup>th</sup> from right) and J. Calice, OeAD (4<sup>th</sup> from left) at Egerton University in 2022.

With the first funded Africa-UniNet projects in their final stages, this year's event will highlight the scientific achievements of Africa-UniNet. More than 60 projects are currently running. The selected oral presentations mainly relate to projects from the 2nd Call covering a wide range of topics: from Covid-19 analysis to food security, biogenic fuels, improving the water quality of rivers and lakes to biodiversity research, strategies for adapting to climate change and improving the social position of women through securitised land use rights.

Our meeting will begin with a focus on different systems of knowledge and the ways in which the hegemonic or post-colonial discourse influences contemporary scientific practice and the relationship between academic institutions in Europe and Africa. The keynote speech on the second day will address transnational research cooperations within the African continent. The subsequent panel discussion will reflect on the keynote and then will centre on economic development, state institutions and legal security as well as the role of civil society and science in intergovernmental relations. The General Assembly, as the central governing body of the network, will conclude the meeting before participants depart for a mountain excursion on the final day to visit the source of Vienna's drinking water supply.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research for its generous and constant financial support in making this network possible, to the sponsors of this year's General Assembly, the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, and to the Vienna Waterworks. We also owe special thanks to our local host, the Austrian Academy of Sciences, for providing the meeting facilities. Finally, we are truly grateful to the staff of Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation – OeAD. Their excellent work in organising this meeting, but also in the day-to-day running of the Africa-UniNet office in Austria, has been outstanding – a heartfelt thank-you to them.

# africauninet

Africa-UniNet Board 2020-2026: Christian Anieke (Godfrey Okoye University), Anke Bockreis (University of Innsbruck), Belachew Gebrewold (MCI Innsbruck), Hubert Hasenauer, President (BOKU), Nzula Kitaka, Vice-President (Egerton University), Zena Mabeyo (Institute of Social Work)

## Heinz Fassmann, President of the Austrian Academy of Sciences

It is a great honor to welcome all representatives of the Austrian-African Research Network, Africa-UniNet, to the third General Assembly on the premises of the beautiful historic building of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW). The OeAW is Austria's largest non-university research and science institution with a mission to "promote science in every way". Therefore, we are more than happy to offer an interesting academic program as well as presentations that will show the wonderful cooperation between Austrian and African institutions. It is proof of another important step towards densifying the network and increasing its scientific relevance.



ÖAW

AUSTRIAN  
ACADEMY OF  
SCIENCES

The OeAW promotes academic research in the sciences and humanities by establishing and operating research institutions, by financing research programs and people, and by establishing a community of experts who address fundamental scientific questions. The OeAW is simultaneously a research institution, research funding organization, and learned society. As such, it holds a unique position in the Austrian research landscape that cannot be compared to other university or non-university institutions. We operate 25 research institutes in the field of innovative basic research in the arts and humanities and the social and natural sciences. The Academy stimulates pioneering research by taking up future-oriented topics and ensuring the preservation and interpretation of cultural heritage. We are committed to application-independent basic research and to the principle of excellence. The latter requires continuous critical review, quality assurance at all levels, and allocation of funds based on performance. The OeAW must remain flexible both internally and in cooperation with others, it must set aside worn-out research questions, and it must be ready to take up new questions and give strong impetus within the Austrian research landscape.

I am happy to hear that the keynote on the second day will be given by the Executive Director of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) Dr. Peggy Oti-Boateng, who will discuss transnational research collaborations within the African continent. The African Union (AU), which also sponsors the AAS, aims to advance the continent's political and economic development by supporting the integration and cooperation of African states in order to achieve peace, security and prosperity for all residents. Science and research have an integrative and mediating function for the central goals of the African development agenda as well as for the further development of the Austrian society: inclusive growth, sustainable economic and ecological development, peace and security, inclusive social systems and education (empowerment of women and young people), fostering common values and the cultural heritage.

As former Federal Minister of Education, Science and Research, I am well aware of the importance of institutional cooperation across continents for a stable future of humanity, which increasingly builds its sustainable coexistence on the results of evidence-based research.

In this spirit, I look forward to the talks, lectures and meetings of the upcoming days and wish all our guests a pleasant stay in Vienna.

## Jakob Calice, Managing Director, OeAD

As Managing Director of the OeAD – Austria’s Agency for Education and Internationalisation –, which hosts the Africa-UniNet office, I would like to thank all participants of the third Africa-UniNet General Assembly for attending this important event. More than 140 participants have registered, many of them travelled great distances to discuss with colleagues, exchange ideas, discuss methodologies, share research results and certainly also design new research questions. In the fourth year since the network has been founded, research groups from several African countries are working together with Austrian colleagues. Africa-UniNet sees itself as a platform for scientific exchange between Austrian and African scientists, a basis for the acquisition of larger research projects, also in other funding schemes.



Africa-UniNet is currently funding 61 cooperative projects covering more than 100 scientific disciplines. The wide range of topics is united by a common concern: the research considers itself as a scientific contribution to the gradual realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In times of multiple crises, transdisciplinary and transnational research is more important than ever. Aside from the importance of scientific results in shaping a sustainable future, Africa-UniNet also contributes to a deeper cultural dialogue that transcends borders and continents. In this sense, I want to thank the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research and the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs for the financial support, the Austrian Academy of Sciences for making their beautiful historic premises available for holding the event and all participants for the great interest in Africa-UniNet. I wish everyone enriching and inspiring days in Vienna.



## Programme

13-15 September 2023

Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW)

Dr. Ignaz Seipel-Platz 2

1010 Vienna

*The aim of the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly meeting is to deepen established partnerships between institutions in Austria and countries in Africa, to further strengthen Africa-UniNet and to strategically enhance its visibility and impact. The results of Africa-UniNet projects will be presented and discussed in scientific sessions. Questions on the decolonisation of knowledge and the interconnection between the academic world and social reality will be discussed.*

### Wednesday, 13 September 2023

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09:00 – 10:00 **Registration & Coffee**

*Room: OeAW, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Festsaal*

*Moderator: Stella Asiimwe, Weltmuseum Wien*

10:00 – 10:30 **Opening Remarks**

Hubert Hasenauer, President of Africa-UniNet, BOKU

Nzula Kitaka, Vice-President of Africa-UniNet, Egerton University

Heinz Fassmann, President, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Jakob Calice, Managing Director, OeAD

10:30 – 12:00 **Keynote Address: Decolonizing Knowledge Systems in Scientific International Cooperation**

Joel Onyango, African Centre for Technology Studies and

Gabriele Slezak, University of Vienna / ÖFSE

**Keynote Address: Decolonizing the African Postcolonial Mind**

Belachew Gebrewold, Management Center Innsbruck

12:00 – 13:30 **Lunch Break, Meet the Press and Rectors' Circle**

The conference venue at the main seat of the OeAW is an architecturally impressive building with a long and noteworthy history. The OeAW has kindly provided us with the historic rooms on the ground and first floors. The **Festsaal** (Festive Hall), as well as **Johanneszimmer** and **Sitzungssaal** are located on the first floor. The **Aula** – the meeting place for coffee and lunch – as well as the registration room are on the ground floor. Furthermore, **Anton Zeilinger Salon** on the ground floor can be used for personal meetings and as working space. Wi-Fi is available, login credentials will be provided on site.

## Scientific Programme: Presenting the Results of Africa-UniNet Projects

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Rooms: OeAW, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Johannessaal and Sitzungssaal

### 13:30 – 15:00 Presentations of Africa-UniNet Project Results | Parallel Session

<p>Room: OeAW, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Johannessaal</p> <p><b>Panel 1: Education, Art and Knowledge Production</b>   P003, P017, P030, P068</p> <p><b>Panel 3: Water, Environmental Research and Conservation</b>   P012, P037 &amp; P039</p>	<p>Room: OeAW, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Sitzungssaal</p> <p><b>Panel 2: Agricultural Research and Food Security</b>   P004, P010, P052, P055, P059</p>
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15:00 – 15:30 **Coffee Break**

### 15:30 – 16:45 Presentations of Africa-UniNet Project Results | Parallel Session

<p>Room: OeAW, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Johannessaal</p> <p><b>Panel 3 continued: Water, Environmental Research and Conservation</b>   P049, P053, P056, P069, P082</p>	<p>Room: OeAW, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Sitzungssaal</p> <p><b>Panel 2 continued: Agricultural Research and Food Security</b>   P060, P086</p> <p><b>Panel 4: Public Health and Community Development</b>   P048, P066, P079</p>
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16:45 **Group Picture**, Walk to Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research

Venue: *Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF), Minoritenplatz 5, 1010 Vienna*

17:45 – 20:00 **Reception by Federal Minister for Education, Science and Research Martin Polaschek**

## Thursday, 14 September 2023

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Room: OeAW, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Festsaal

Moderator: Stella Asiiimwe, Weltmuseum Wien

09:00 – 10:00 **Keynote Address: Transforming Lives through Science for the Africa We Want: Perspectives of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS)**

Peggy Oti-Boateng, Executive Director of the African Academy of Sciences

10:00 – 10:30 **Coffee Break**

10:30 – 12:00 **Panel Discussion:**  
**The Interconnection between the Academic World and Social Reality**  
 Fatima-Zohra Iflahen, Cadi Ayyad University  
 Abdulkarim Sabo Mohammed, Federal University Dutse  
 Carol Nonkwelo, University of Pretoria  
 Retselisitsoe Thamae, National University of Lesotho  
 Martin Woller, Advantage Austria

12:00 – 13:00 **Lunch Break**

*Rooms: OeAW, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Johannessaal and Sitzungssaal*

13:00 – 14:00 **Workshops | Parallel Session**

<p><i>Room: OeAW, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Johannessaal</i></p> <p><b>Workshop 1: How to Keep the Elephant on the Path: Managing Project Expectations</b></p> <p>Meggy Kantert &amp; Christian Anieke, Godfrey Okoye University</p>	<p><i>Room: OeAW, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Sitzungssaal</i></p> <p><b>Workshop 2: Expanding the Horizon: Funding Opportunities beyond Africa-UniNet</b></p> <p>Carol Nonkwelo, University of Pretoria Peter Mayr, Paris Lodron Univ. of Salzburg</p>
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14:00 – 14:30 **Coffee Break**

### **Africa-UniNet General Assembly Meeting (only for Africa-UniNet Representatives)**

*Room: OeAW, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Sitzungssaal*

*Chair and Co-chair: Africa-UniNet President Hubert Hasenauer (BOKU) and Africa-UniNet Vice-President Nzula Kitaka (Egerton University)*

14:30 – 17:00 **Africa-UniNet General Assembly**  
 Presentation and Official Acceptance of New Member Institutions  
 Achievements, Status Quo and Future Endeavours

17:30 Walk to University of Applied Arts Vienna

*Venue: University of Applied Arts Vienna,  
 Expositur Vordere Zollamtsstraße 7, 1030 Vienna*

18:00 **Reception by the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs of the Republic of Austria** | Keynote address by a high-level representative of the Ministry



Friday, 15 September 2023

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08:30 – 16:00 **Excursion: Vienna's Water Supply, Kaiserbrunn**

Please make sure you have registered for the excursion. The bus leaves at 08:30 from Motel One Hauptbahnhof. A lunch package will be provided during the excursion.

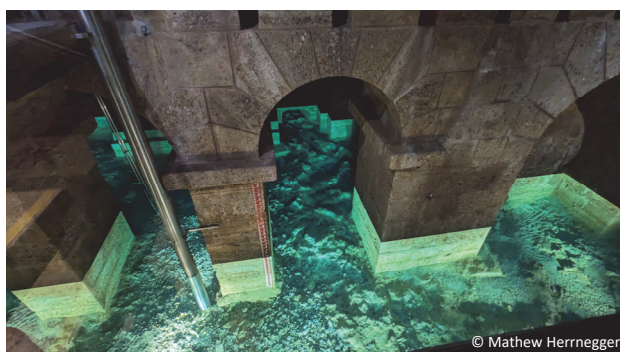
We will visit “Kaiserbrunn”, or “Emperor’s Well”, from where part of the drinking water of the city of Vienna comes from. The place is located south of Vienna in the province of Lower Austria in the Rax-Schneeberg region at the edge of the eastern Austrian limestone Alps. Mountainous climate with a lot of rain and snow during the wintertime provides excellent conditions for drinking water supply. Historically, it was the hunting



area for Franz Josef I, the emperor of the Austrian-Hungarian empire. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Vienna experienced an enormous population increase, which resulted in severe shortages of clean water especially for poor people, triggering disease and epidemics. The City of Vienna – in a visionary step – decided to build a pipeline to transport pure mountain spring water to the city.

Celebrating 150 years of existence this year, the First Vienna Mountain Spring Pipeline was opened on 24 October 1873 and now has a total length of 150 km, delivering around 50% of Vienna's water. The water flows solely by gravity and takes around 24 hours to reach the city. “Kaiserbrunn” is one of the main springs and we will visit the well, the water museum and enjoy the mountainous landscape of the region. Due to further population increases, a second water pipeline had to be constructed and was opened in 1910. The Second Vienna Mountain Spring Pipeline has its origin in Hochschwab region in Styria and is about 180 km long. The water also flows solely with gravity and takes about 36 hours to reach Vienna. Around 50% of the drinking water protection zones and the forests are owned and managed by the City of Vienna, with the focus to ensure high quality drinking water for about 2 million people. Elevation differences in the pipelines are used to produce electricity in 16 drinking water hydropower plants. The water supply relies on 70 water springs in the water catchments and consists of 130 aqueducts and 82 km of mountain tunnels along both pipelines.

More: <https://www.wien.gv.at/wienwasser/pdf/water-supply-museum-kaiserbrunn.pdf>



**Water Supply Museum Kaiserbrunn**

Kaiserbrunn 5  
2651 Reichenau an der Rax

City of Vienna | Vienna Water (MA31)

## Keynote Addresses

### Decolonizing Knowledge Systems in Scientific International Cooperation: Embracing Decoloniality, Anti-Racism Research, and a Self-Reflective Perspective through Transdisciplinary Approaches

**Joel Onyango**, African Centre for Technology Studies

**Gabriele Slezak**, University of Vienna and Austrian Foundation for Development Research (ÖFSE)

*Wednesday, 13 September, 10:30-12:00*

Scientific international cooperation is key for global problem-solving in times of multiple crises through collaborative research. However, North-South academic partnerships often perpetuate unconscious biases and racism, hindering inclusivity and equitable knowledge exchange. This keynote stresses the need for researchers from higher education institutions and research centres to engage in an explorative field study, examining their unconscious biases and epistemic fragility when participating in cross-continental collaborations. Emphasizing decoloniality and anti-racism research, this presentation delves into the historical legacies that have shaped academic hierarchies, influencing power dynamics and knowledge production. Unconscious biases, deriving from assumptions of intellectual superiority and multi-layered stereotypes, may even influence the perception and classification of scientific knowledge under the premise of universality. Additionally, we address the impact of racism in academic collaborations, leading to unequal resource distribution and marginalization of knowledge, e.g., contributions from the Global South. Questioning these discriminatory practices is essential to establish a more egalitarian partnership.

Drawing upon examples from academic partnerships, we illustrate the transformative potential of self-awareness and reflexivity in challenging biases, fostering inclusivity, and promoting a more equitable approach to cooperation. Moreover, we highlight the significance of acknowledging biases within the specific cooperation framework, allowing researchers to initiate decolonization processes, fostering respectful and equitable scientific exchange. Additionally, the keynote raises the question of the crucial need for European socialized researchers to critically reflect on their epistemic fragility attitude, recognizing how Eurocentrism and colonial legacies shape perspectives and impede inclusive cooperation.

An approach that embraces decoloniality and anti-racism research can drive meaningful change, fostering a genuinely inclusive environment where all knowledge systems are valued, contributing to a shared global understanding. Reconstituting and deconstructing the hegemony of epistemes, challenging language hierarchies, and cultivating an open attitude to understanding rather than defining knowledge represent fundamental principles in this process.

The concept of epistemic fragility serves as an explanatory framework, inviting further exploratory research to decolonize curricula and confront, as Ndlovu-Gatsheni puts it in his *Epistemic Freedom in Africa*, the 'intimate enemy' of colonialism that influences all actors in the cooperation. Addressing and dismantling epistemic fragility is essential for a decolonization process that liberates minds and breaks free from Western imperial reasoning, opening the academy to other knowledges and thinkers beyond Euro-American dominance.

As we critically reassess and unthink nineteenth-century social science, we underline the importance of spirituality in research, respecting non-Western social forms of co-existence, and creating space for inquiries grounded in relational realities. Decolonization involves the deconstruction and reconstruction of distorted narratives (Chilisa 2012), in knowledge systems that reclaim "a process of recovery and discovery", retelling the stories of the past and envisioning the future.

## Joel Onyango



Joel has worked in research and management with a focus on science technology and innovation; climate change action; water quality, security and access; food security, entrepreneurship and markets, and sustainable development. Joel has experience working with intergovernmental organizations, regional NGOs, academic institutions, and African government agencies. He has professional experience leading and participating in international research and development projects. Joel

has published in climate smart innovations and entrepreneurship, inclusive innovation policy, and resource degradation.

## Gabriele Slezak

Gabriele Slezak holds a PhD in sociolinguistics and is currently a lecturer and senior researcher at the Department of African Sciences at the University of Vienna. Throughout her career, she has undertaken extensive research in transdisciplinary academic cooperation, focusing on the areas of food security, sustainable fisheries, and water management in West Africa and the examination of linguistic diversity within higher education systems. Through in-depth analysis, she seeks to challenge and question the dominant Westernized ways of perceiving and controlling knowledge. She is deeply committed to unmasking and dismantling the inherent and often unconscious Eurocentric and racist mechanisms that influence the evaluation of scientific knowledge. Thus, in recent years, Gabriele's research has also extended to the continuity of colonial racist ideology in research contexts, to foster self-reflexive learning attitudes in transnational academic partnerships and working to create a transformative space that dismantles colonial mindsets and encourages critical thinking. By adopting a decolonial lens, she aims to contribute to a more inclusive and equitable academic environment. Gabriele is also working in the field of development studies at the Austrian Foundation of Development Research (ÖFSE). Here, she actively engages in third mission projects and scientific communication, bridging the gap between academic research and practical application. Guided by a decolonial perspective, she seeks to challenge traditional power dynamics and promote the voices and perspectives of marginalized communities.



universität  
wien

**ÖFSE**  
Austrian Foundation  
for Development Research

## Decolonizing the African Postcolonial Mind

**Belachew Gebrewold**, Management Center Innsbruck

*Wednesday, 13 September, 10:30-12:00*

The decolonization of African studies usually means the liberation of African studies from subordination from the agendas in the global North and understanding the continent's diverse and complex societies to build on their indigenous structures and values. Often this implies the return of the knowledge production for Africa to the roots that lie within the continent itself. However, in addition to these aspects of the decolonization of African studies, I focus on the decolonization of the African mind. This means postcolonial African studies should focus on the agenda of how science and research can make us Africans independent thinkers. Colonization was enforcement of foreign or Western values on Africans. Who is enforcing which values on Africans nowadays? Are we African researchers doing enough to promote free thinking and research in Africa? Are we doing enough research to address the underlying problems in Africa: lack of equality, mutual respect, inviolability of human dignity, and diversity? Is African research solution-oriented? In this presentation, I argue that our African problem does not lie in Western dominance economically, politically, or technologically, but instead in the fact that we work against our own people rather

than working with and for our people. Our technological, economic, environmental, and political problems are the result of our socio-cultural mentality problems. African research has to be a vehicle to address the underlying African problems and solve the diverse problems through a bottom-up approach. African research is often too hierarchical, too elitist, and detached from the daily problems of the poor, hungry, and illiterate Africans. Moreover, it is a huge challenge, but African research has to emancipate itself from African political elites. It has to keep in mind the professional ethics. African research and science have to promote the transformation of African society socially, politically, economically, and technologically. The most important and challenging task of African science and research is to break the scapegoating narrative that the West is responsible for Africa's ills. Africans will never be free until they have overcome their mental coloniality. Western research grants will change very little in Africa until we Africans have created a favourable environment for equality, mutual respect, and diversity socially, politically, economically, and technologically. Until we have overcome the archaic mentality of patriarchy, autocracy, and ethnicized politics and economy Africa will remain where it is now. External powers will never solve our problems. As academicians and researchers, we have professional and ethical responsibility and obligation to illuminate that most of the African problems are homemade. The solution is dependent on our mindset and self-respect.

### **Belachew Gebrewold**

Belachew Gebrewold is a professor of International Relations and the Head of Department and Studies of Social Work and Social Policy at MCI, Innsbruck, Austria. His main research areas are European-African relations, African politics and conflicts, and migration. His publications include various peer-reviewed articles, monographs and edited volumes such as *Africa and Fortress Europe*, Ashgate 2008; *Anatomy of Violence*, Ashgate 2009; *Global Security Triangle*, Routledge 2013; *Understanding Migrant Decisions*, Routledge, 2018; *Human Trafficking and Exploitation*, Routledge, 2019. He was also a member of the steering committee for the preparation of the UN Global Compact for Regular, Safe and Orderly Migration preparatory process in 2017, and a Member of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Informal Advisory Group on Migration, 2017. Moreover, he was a member of the Migration Council of the Austrian Ministry of Internal Affairs from 2014 until 2017.



## **Transforming Lives through Science for the Africa We Want: Perspectives of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS)**

**Peggy Oti-Boateng**, Executive Director of the African Academy of Sciences, Nairobi, Kenya  
*Thursday, 14 September, 9:00-10:00*

The scientific landscape on the African continent has greatly advanced in the last few decades. There has been an increase in institutions conducting a diverse array of much-needed scientific research. This coupled with increased talent and growth in African scientific expertise, has resulted in a very good local innovations landscape for the continents and advance development. The African Academy of Sciences (AAS) since 1985 with its partners have been central to this growth, transforming lives in Africa through Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI).

While some progress has been made towards enhancing Africa's research and innovation landscape the continent representing 12.5% of the world's population and bearing 25% of the world's disease burden, counts for about 125 researchers per million inhabitants, far from the global average of 1,368 and 4,069 in the European Union (EU). These statistics highlight the need for

more commitments and investments not just to sustain the gains made but also to help bring Africa closer to the rest of the world in terms of capacities for research and innovation. The unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic has also unearthed and aggravated major enduring challenges, including climate change, sustainable development and economic growth, population growth, social transformation, and democratic governance. In addition, new vulnerable areas, regarding access to science and health information, education, digital transformation, and technological advances, also became apparent.

AAS's future action in the next 5 years is ambitious and poised to consider mid and early career researchers and women as priority groups in the Organization. The Academy will pursue a strategic mentorship initiative in all areas of its mandate and at all levels of action that will not only address the priority group as beneficiaries but will also engage with them as change-makers, knowledge brokers, and partners. Unlocking the full potential of STI to tackle societal needs and environmental challenges requires robust STI ecosystems with inclusive STI policies and a well-balanced portfolio of policy instruments.

AAS with its strategic partners will strengthen its tripartite mandate of 'think tank' and science policy advice to institutions and countries and advocate that governments must invest in creating STI-enabled societies through effective national science policies and robust systems of science governance. It will support the development of new approaches for the formulation of science policies, focusing on developing closer linkages between academia and industry and participatory STI governance systems that promote a culture of science and innovation while fostering the links between science, policy, and society to advance knowledge societies. We call on all collaborators to join AAS on this ambitious journey in making science work for Africa.

### **Peggy Oti-Boateng**

Dr. Peggy Oti-Boateng was appointed the Executive Director at the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) on 1 November 2022. In her role, she will provide leadership and strategic direction of AAS's programmes in order to achieve the Academy's vision, mission and objectives. She will oversee both the programmatic and operational management of the organization with a focus to sustainably drive the mandate of AAS through the secretariat team, and to represent the academy globally. Previously Dr Oti-Boateng was the Senior Science Advisor for Natural Sciences and the Director of the Division of Science Policy and Capacity Building in the Natural Sciences Sector at UNESCO Paris (France). In the past, she has been responsible for projects and programmes relating to science policy and capacity building in basic sciences and engineering at the multisectoral UNESCO regional office in Harare (Zimbabwe). She was regional thematic adviser for Africa for the formulation of policies and capacity building in science, technology, and innovation and engineering. She also served as focal point for the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology and was the Head of the Science in the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). She had additional responsibilities in the area of local and indigenous knowledge systems, ecological and earth system sciences, water sciences, and intersectoral collaboration in Education, Social and Human Sciences, Culture and Communication. Dr Oti-Boateng holds a PhD in Food Science and Technology obtained from the University of Adelaide in Australia and BSc, with a specialization in Biochemistry, obtained from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi (Ghana).



## Panel Discussion

### The Interconnection between the Academic World and Social Reality

**Fatima-Zohra Iflahen**, Cadi Ayyad University, **Abdulkarim Sabo Mohammed**, Federal University Dutse, **Carol Nonkwelo**, University of Pretoria, **Retselisitsoe Thamae**, National University of Lesotho, **Martin Woller**, Advantage Austria  
*Thursday, 14 September, 10:30-12:00*

Academic worlds tend to create their own rules, hierarchies, thought patterns and thus tend to lose relevance for and contact with other social environments. Of course, science and research should not be an end in themselves but should contribute to improving people's living conditions. The role of the universities for stable and sustainable development can be defined in many ways - a central target group of universities is young people (especially in populous countries) – they represent the future, they should be educated in the best possible way and prepared for their civil society responsibility as academics. Universities can significantly support civil society and contribute to peace-building processes in conflict regions, they can also be a link between research and business start-ups, or a link in the implementation of research results in sustainable economic contexts, and they also bear responsibility for how society deals with climate change and for the necessary energy transformation. The panel discussion aims to discuss the interconnection between the academic world and the social reality from a wide variety of perspectives and show ways in which the social relevance of universities in African contexts can be increased.

## Workshops

### How to Keep the Elephant on the Path: Managing Project Expectations

**Meggy Kantert** and **Christian Anieke**, Godfrey Okoye University  
*Thursday, 14 September, 13:00-14:00*

Interactive Workshop on strategy-building to manage project expectations for a successful cooperation with international partners.

Many times, our expectations in projects do not match our partner's expectations. Uniting them is crucial for the success of any cooperation. And as expectations aren't static, they change over time. Thus, managing expectations at the beginning of a project is not enough – we need to constantly monitor and manage expectations. To build up productive partnerships and to successfully translate plans into action we need to manage intercultural differences as well as broken or exceeded expectations.

**Meggy Kantert** holds a MAS degree in coaching and organisation development from the University of Zurich. She currently works as International Liaison Officer at Godfrey Okoye University, Enugu, Nigeria. Kantert is a teacher at heart and has been teaching and coaching people of various ages in a variety of institutions and countries for 30 years. She owns Kantert Consulting, an international executive coaching and consultancy firm.

**Prof. Christian Anieke** is the founding Vice Chancellor of Godfrey Okoye University, Enugu, Nigeria. He is a professor of English Language and Studies and the Africa-UniNet representative for Nigeria as well as Africa-UniNet Board member.

## Expanding the Horizon: Funding Opportunities beyond Africa-UniNet

**Carol Nonkwelo**, University of Pretoria

**Peter Mayr**, Paris Lodron University of Salzburg

Thursday, 14 September, 13:00-14:00

Building on the networks created and strengthened through Africa-UniNet, researchers are invited to expand their reach through the acquisition of further funding. The proposed workshop provides an overview of various funding opportunities, initiatives, and work programmes available through Horizon Europe and Erasmus+ that are open to collaboration with African partner universities. The workshop will discuss the outcomes of the Africa Initiative, share examples of successful practices, and highlight relevant Austrian funding schemes. Furthermore, important funding initiatives implemented in African countries will be discussed as well as experience shared.

**Carol Nonkwelo** is the Senior Director for Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Education at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. Her Department of Research and Innovation includes post-graduate and postdoctoral fellows, early career and established academic researcher support, innovation and research contract management, and research collaborations and internationalisation. She has extensive experience in research management and leadership.

**Peter Mayr** is Director of the International Relations Department of the University of Salzburg. He has profound expertise in internationalization and institutional change management as well as with international funding programmes. He worked as lecturer at the University of Kent, and for funding agencies including the OeAD in Vienna, the UNESCO in Paris and the European Commission in Brussels. External expert work for the European Commission includes evaluation of grant applications for Horizon Europe Marie Curie and Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence; Board Member of the first ERC Initiative on Science Journalism project FRONTIERS.



Meggy Kantert (far right), Peter Mayr (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) and Christian Anieke (4<sup>th</sup> from right) together with fellow Africa-UniNet representatives during a break-out session at the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly at Egerton University, Kenya, in October 2022.

## Abstracts

<p><b>Presentations of Africa-UniNet Project Results   Parallel Session</b>  <i>Wednesday, 13 September, 13:30-15:00</i></p>	
<p><i>Room: OeAW, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Johannessaal</i></p> <p><b>Panel 1: Education, Art and Knowledge Production</b></p> <p><b>P003</b> Enhancing Quality of Sociology Postgraduate Teaching and Learning through Staff Exchange and Collaboration among Three Universities  <i>Kasahun Desyalew Mekonen, Debre Markos University, Ethiopia</i></p> <p><b>P017</b> A Research of Doing  <i>Johan Thom, University of Pretoria, South Africa</i></p> <p><b>P030</b> Decoloniality of Research and Learning Methods in the Global South: A Trans-disciplinary Book Project  <i>Joel Onyango, ACTS, Kenya</i></p> <p><b>P068</b> Quality Education for All: Designing and Implementing Digitized English Language Learning System for Secondary School Education in Africa  <i>Adebola Adebileje and Teniola Kupolati, Redeemer's University, Nigeria</i></p> <p><b>Panel 3: Water, Environmental Research and Conservation</b></p> <p><b>P012</b> Strengthening Community-Based Research for River Health and Climate Change Mitigation in Eastern Africa  <i>Andreas Bauer, BOKU, Austria</i></p> <p><b>P037</b> Interfaces for Integrated Land/Water Resource Management &amp; <b>P039</b> ProLit – Promotion and Literature Awareness in Sustainable Fisheries and Water Management Transformation Pathways for Africa  <i>Andreas Melcher, BOKU, Austria</i></p>	<p><i>Room: OeAW, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Sitzungssaal</i></p> <p><b>Panel 2: Agricultural Research and Food Security</b></p> <p><b>P004</b> Fungal Species and Multi-mycotoxin Associated with Post-harvest Sorghum (<i>Sorghum bicolor</i> L. Moench) Grain in Eastern Ethiopia  <i>Abdi Mohammed Hassen, Haramaya University, Ethiopia</i></p> <p><b>P010</b> Mycotoxin Exposure in Children Under Five Years from Rural Households in Oshana and Oshikoto Regions of Namibia  <i>Maria Angula, University of Namibia</i></p> <p><b>P052</b> Gender-Specific Vulnerability on Climate Change and Food Security Status - A catchment Approach on Agroforestry Systems - A Multi-Country Case Study  <i>Zerihun Yohannes Amare, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia</i></p> <p><b>P055</b> Bioethanol Production from Sweet Sorghum Stalks Grown in Varied Agroecological Zones in Africa  <i>Chrispin Kowenje, Maseno University, Kenya</i></p> <p><b>P059</b> Sustainable Networks for Using Next Generation Quantitative Genetics to Modernize Breeding Programs in Kenya  <i>Mercy Wamalwa, Egerton University, Kenya, Hermann Bürstmayr, BOKU, Austria</i></p>
<p><b>Presentations of Africa-UniNet Project Results   Parallel Session</b>  <i>Wednesday, 13 September, 15:30-16:45</i></p>	
<p><i>Room: OeAW, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Johannessaal</i></p> <p><b>Panel 3 (continued): Water, Environmental Research and Conservation</b></p> <p><b>P049</b> Collaborative Monitoring for Sustainable Development of Lake Tana UNESCO Biosphere Reserve  <i>Daniel Mengistu, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia</i></p>	<p><i>Room: OeAW, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Sitzungssaal</i></p> <p><b>Panel 2 (continued): Agricultural Research and Food Security</b></p> <p><b>P060</b> Partnership Program in Integrated Agri-Aquaculture Systems for Food Security and Poverty Reduction in Eastern Africa  <i>Isabel Wagara, Egerton University, Kenya</i></p>



<p><b>P053</b> Marine Spatial Planning for Sustainable Use of Lake Victoria <i>Alex Barakagira, Nkumba University, Uganda</i></p> <p><b>P056</b> Biosorbents for Sustainable Wastewater Treatment <i>Ali Maged Gharieb, Suez University, Egypt</i></p> <p><b>P069</b> Surveillance and Removal of Cyanobacteria and Antimicrobial Resistance Genes from Drinking Water Sources <i>Aemere Ogunlaja, Redeemer's University, Nigeria</i></p> <p><b>P082</b> Drivers and Pressures on Water Quality Characteristics of the Maziba Sub-Catchment, Western Uganda <i>Mathew Herrnegger, BOKU, Austria</i></p>	<p><b>P086</b> Revisiting Climate Change Mitigation Potential in Smallholder Farming Systems in Kenya <i>Eugenio Diaz-Pines, BOKU, Austria</i></p> <p><b>Panel 4: Public Health and Community Development</b></p> <p><b>P048</b> Protecting Women in Tanzania: Preventing Gender-Based Violence Through Indigenous Approaches <i>Zena Mabeyo, Inst. of Social Work, Tanzania, Helmut Spitzer, Carinthia Univ. of Applied Sciences, Austria</i></p> <p><b>P066</b> Use of Covid-19 ICT Surveillance Applications in Uganda <i>Mary Acanit, Kyambogo University, Uganda</i></p> <p><b>P079</b> Analysis of Determinants of Climate Change Adaptation Strategies Adoption by Rural Female Farmers in Burkina Faso <i>Habi Ky, University of Ouahigouya, Burkina Faso</i></p>
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## Panel 1: Education, Art and Knowledge Production

### **P003** Enhancing Quality of Sociology Postgraduate Teaching and Learning through Staff Exchange and Collaboration among Three Universities

*Kasahun Desyalew Mekonen, Debre Markos University, Ethiopia*

The proposed project aims at building a partnership between Sociology Departments of Debre Markos University in Ethiopia, University of Lagos in Nigeria and University of Innsbruck in Austria. Its overall goal is to develop high quality joint postgraduate sociological teaching and advising at sociology departments of the three collaborating institutions, thereby producing skilled Sociology graduates that would contribute towards the achievement of SDGs. To this end, three sub-teams, comprising of three members in each team with one Sociologist from each of the collaborating institutions were set. A criterion for inclusion in the sub teams was based on expertise in Sociological Theory; Social Research Methods and Applied Sociology. The aim of the partnership is to jointly engage in teaching of courses; advising master's students, conduct research and public lectures in partnering institutions. It also includes developing and revising postgraduate curricula of partner institutions at the Masters level on the one hand and an intensive collaboration between the sub-teams; intercultural team-building and critical reflection on different scientific cultures and local conditions; exploring how curricula and teaching practices at each department are carried out, as well as what gaps need to be filled to produce skilled and competent Sociology graduates that will contribute to the achievement of SDGs. These will be done from the viewpoint of "decolonizing" the curricula to suit with local realities. The project also contributes to the improvement and internationalization of graduate teaching in the partner institutions.

*Keywords: Sociology, Postgraduate Teaching, Collaboration, Decolonization, Staff Exchange*

### **P017** A Research of Doing

*Johan Thom, University of Pretoria, South Africa*

A RESEARCH OF DOING (ARD) is a collaborative research-based artistic project facilitated by teams from the University of Pretoria and University of Applied Arts Vienna in collaboration with the Centre for the Less Good Idea in Johannesburg. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Basak Senova, Visiting Professor at Department of Art and Communication Practices at Angewandte led the research project in collaboration with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Johan Thom, coordinator of Fine Art and Postgraduate studies in Fine Art at UP and Bronwyn Lace, Director of the

Centre for the Less Good Idea. The ongoing partnership, which was developed through researching and producing together, values and connects the diversities between and/or among interdisciplinary approaches towards artistic research and practices; the various forms of artistic research and practices; divergent perspectives on artistic production methodologies and creative outputs; individual and community-based approaches towards artistic practice and research; diverse socio-political realities and context-specific perspectives; strategies of sustainability; global and context-specific artistic challenges and opportunities; diverse forms of engagement between artists, audiences, institutions, forms of innovative and technology-driven mindsets; and diverse knowledge production models. With an integrative approach, “The Octopus Programme” of the University of Applied Art Vienna provided further input to this research.

The ARD project resulted in a number of collaborative creative workshops, guest lectures and events that all explored the close intersection between artistic practice and academic research as two distinct but interrelated forms of 'doing'. This included workshops at The Centre for the Less Good Idea and The Nirox Foundation, presentations as part of conferences and events in Vienna and South Africa and guided walkabouts and discussions at the Javett-UP Art Centre and the Pretoria Art Museum, among others. In this way postgraduate fine art students were exposed to diverse approaches to artistic production and critical thinking that inform the burgeoning field of artistic research today. These findings will now be collated in as part of a publication.

*Keywords: Artistic research, Research as Doing, Collaboration, Diversity, Interdisciplinary*

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### **P030 Decoloniality of Research and Learning Methods in the Global South: A Transdisciplinary Book Project**

*Joel Onyango, Africa Center for Technology Studies, Kenya*

*Bernadette Müller Kmet<sup>1</sup>, Andreas Exenberger<sup>1</sup>, Andreas Melcher<sup>2</sup> | (1) University of Innsbruck, Austria, (2) University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria*

There is growing debate on the decolonisation of knowledge systems in academia, research and policy appraisal through the recognition of and integration of alternative knowledges. Yet, ‘decolonisation’ has many facets and ideas given its growing literature. On the one hand, it is argued that decoloniality scholarship should go beyond usual critique of epistemology and methodologies and on the other hand engage with alternative visions around transformation by inclusion, the dismantling of fossil capitalism, tackling injustices and dismantling colonial property. In the Global South ‘Coloniality’, has traditionally been associated with territorial control, power capture and political rule over subordinated countries. Used ‘metaphorically’ coloniality allows for a deeper understanding of global power structure currently embedded in our modern society. The struggles for ‘decoloniality’ continue to evolve from the undoing of colonial rule to the even more fundamental challenge of freeing knowledge, practice and culture from deeper worldwide concentrations of incumbent power. The project has reviewed literature regarding various understanding of decoloniality, with various webinars and summer school. The oral presentation will augment on research gaps by analysing and prioritising key concepts and thematic patterns of decolonising in the global South and reviewing the strategies developed towards decolonising research and methods and challenging the power relations in which they are embedded.

*Keywords: Decoloniality, Knowledge and Learning Systems, Power relations, Elitism*

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### **P068 Quality Education for All: Designing and Implementing Digitized English Language Learning System for Secondary School Education in Africa**

*Adebola Adebileje, Teniola Kupolati, Redeemer’s University, Nigeria*

The Project is a collaboration of: University of Innsbruck, Austria; Debre Markos University, Ethiopia and Redeemer’s University, Nigeria. The project aims to produce a specialized digitized teaching/learning System/App for teaching English at the secondary school level in Africa, especially, in pandemic times and to align with SDGs 4, 5, and 8. The assessment of the existing English language curricula revealed that (i) existing curriculum in Nigeria follows the Structured Approach to teaching/learning English language, while in

Ethiopia, curriculum is almost in line with the Task-based Approach that is used in Austria; (ii) structured curriculum provides teachers with clear guidelines, objectives, expectations, and a sequence of lessons and activities designed to enhance students' learning; (iii) it helps teachers to organize English language instructions into manageable and achievable steps, ensuring students' progress towards proficiency; (iv) it helps students to develop a strong foundation in the language, as they are gradually exposed to different aspects of the language, such as grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation, in a way that is manageable and achievable; and (v) teachers are able to assess students' progress, adjust their teaching methods accordingly, and provide feedback that is meaningful and helpful for improving student learning. However, the structured curricula do not afford students enough exposure to the use of the English language outside the school premises. Students are not acquainted with the day to day, life activities communicative demands in English which is necessary even after graduating from secondary school. Hence, in line with the aim of the project, task-assisted activities were blended with the existing structured curriculum and appropriate adjustments made in the Ethiopian Curriculum. Next, selected trained English teachers taught the lessons and were video recorded. Audio and video recorded lessons and tasks, pictures and slides etc. are the materials for software engineers. The Rapid Application Development (RAD) model is selected for the software development of the App following the 6 steps identified in the proposal. Preliminary findings indicate that students are better exposed to real-world tasks using the language they are learning, students develop performance abilities in using the English language, and teachers are better able to guide and support students work through the tasks, and evaluate their performance based on criteria that are relevant.

*Keywords: English curriculum, Digitized English curriculum, Task-assisted learning, Secondary school education*

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## Panel 2: Agricultural Research and Food Security

### **P004** Fungal Species and Multi-mycotoxin Associated with Post-harvest Sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor* L. Moench) Grain in Eastern Ethiopia

*Abdi Mohammed Hassen, Haramaya University, Ethiopia*

*Zelalem Bekeko<sup>1</sup>, Mawardi Yusuf<sup>2</sup>, Michael Sulyok<sup>2</sup>, Rudolf Krska<sup>2,3</sup> | (1) Haramaya University, (2) University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria, (3) Queens University Belfast, United Kingdom*

Sorghum is the main staple food crops in developing countries including Ethiopia. However, sorghum grain quantity and quality are affected by contaminating fungi. The study was aimed with the assessment of fungal species associated to sorghum grain and multi-mycotoxin in post-harvest samples collected from eastern Ethiopia. Fungal genera of *Aspergillus*, *Alternaria*, *Bipolaris*, *Fusarium*, *Mucor*, *Penicillium* and *Rhizoctonia* were recovered in the infected grain, with the maximum prevalence of *Fusarium* species. A Liquid Chromatography-tandem Mass Spectrometric (LC-MS/MS), was used for quantification of multiple mycotoxins / fungal metabolites. Overall, 96 metabolites were detected and grouped into eight categories. All metabolites were detected either in one or more samples. Among major mycotoxins and derivatives, deoxynivalenol (136.64  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ ), zearalenone (120.51  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ ) and ochratoxin A (115.09  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ ) were detected with maximum concentrations. Different emerging mycotoxins also detected with tenuazonic acid (1514.71  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ ) the maximum concentration of *Alternaria* metabolites, and fusaric acid (2786.37  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ ) as *Fusarium* metabolites. Unspecific metabolites were recognized with neoechinulin A (1996.44  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ ) the maximum concentration, followed by cyclo (L-Pro-L-Tyr) (574.42  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ ) and cyclo (L-Pro-L-Val) (409.69  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ ). Apparently, the study revealed that sorghum grain collected across those districts were significantly contaminated with co-occurrences of several mycotoxins. Farmers should be the main target groups to be trained on the improved management of sorghum production. Hence, it's apprised to the stakeholders to emphasize the importance of mycotoxins in sorghum grain, for possible and urgent interventions to assure consumers food safety.

*Keywords: Fungal Species; Multi-mycotoxins; Sorghum grain; Eastern Ethiopia*

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## **P010 Mycotoxin Exposure in Children Under Five Years from Rural Households in Oshana and Oshikoto Regions of Namibia**

*Maria Angula, University of Namibia, Namibia*

*Anthony Ishola<sup>1</sup>, Muvari Tjiurutue<sup>1</sup>, Michael Sulyok<sup>2</sup>, Rudolf Krska<sup>2,3</sup>, Chibundu Ezekiel<sup>2</sup>, Jane Misihairabgwi<sup>1</sup> | (1) University of Namibia, Namibia, (2) University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria, (3) Queen's University Belfast, United Kingdom*

Mycotoxin contamination in food crops is a significant health concern, particularly in developing countries such as Namibia, where climatic conditions promote fungal growth in staple cereals. Children's diets are mostly cereal based, consequently resulting in high vulnerability of children to mycotoxin exposure, as they consume a higher amount of mycotoxin contaminated food relative to their body weight. This study aimed to identify the foods commonly consumed by children, assess the types and levels of mycotoxins present in the consumed foods, and evaluate the dietary mycotoxin exposure of children under five years from rural households in Oshana and Oshikoto regions. A cross-sectional descriptive study design was employed, and 100 children from the two regions were purposively selected. Anthropometric data and information on food consumption were collected through semi-structured questionnaires. Liquid chromatography/tandem mass spectrometry was utilized to quantify the types and levels of mycotoxins in 100 raw cereal foods from the two regions. A deterministic approach was employed to estimate dietary exposure of children to mycotoxins. Frequently consumed foods included pearl millet porridge, traditional leafy green vegetables, beans, chicken, fish, and the traditional non-alcoholic cereal beverage oshikundu. Most children (75%) consumed meals one to three times a day. The exposure levels of children to mycotoxins from both regions exceeded the recommended tolerable daily intake limits; thus, the results indicate a potential health risk to children. Urgent interventions are required to address mycotoxin contamination and its impact on child health in rural areas.

*Keywords: Child Health, Consumed Foods, Exposure Assessment, Food Contamination, Mycotoxins*

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## **P052 Gender-Specific Vulnerability on Climate Change and Food Security Status – A catchment Approach on Agroforestry Systems – A Multi-Country Case Study**

*Zerihun Yohannes Amare, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia*

*Bernhard Freyer<sup>2</sup>, Ky Serge Stephane<sup>3</sup>, Ouéda Adama<sup>3</sup>, Blessing Mudombi<sup>4</sup>, Jean Nzuma<sup>4</sup>, Mekonen Getachew Abebe<sup>1</sup>, Adane Tesfaye<sup>1</sup>, Birtukan Atinkut<sup>1</sup>, Tesfahun Asmamaw<sup>1</sup> | (1) Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia, (2) University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria, (3) University of Ouahigouya, Burkina Faso, (4) Scientific and Industrial Research and Development Centre, Zimbabwe*

The objective of this study was to assess gender specific smallholder farmers vulnerability levels against CC and food security, and the specific role of Agroforestry System. The study was conducted in Ethiopia (Zege catchment) (ZC), Zimbabwe (Upper save catchment) (USC), and Burkina Faso (Nakambe catchment) (NC). The study employed a quantitative approach (n= 180) with a complement of a qualitative approach (n= 33 key informant interviews and 6 focus group discussions). Households in ZC (58%), in NC (55%), and US (40%) do not cover their household food consumption from crop production. The focus group discussion and key informants' interviews result confirmed that households are highly dependent in perennial (cash crops like Coffee, Mango, and Avocado) production than annual crop production. Exposure indicators in ZC (0.758), USC (0.774) and NC (0.944); and sensitivity indicators in ZC (0.849), and NC (0.937) are statistically significant and highly correlated with vulnerability and in the USC, the adaptive capacity (0.746) and exposure (0.774) are statistically significant and highly correlated with vulnerability. Vulnerability levels of the NC are very high (0.75) (0.85 female and 0.65 male participants) as compared to the USC (0.66) (0.69 female and 0.61 male participants) and ZC (0.47) (0.34 female and 0.58 male participants). Female-headed households had statistically significantly lower vulnerability index compared to male in ZC, while male-headed households had statistically significantly lower vulnerability index compared to female in USC and in NC. The reason is land certification in ZC (80%) – higher than USC (10%) and NC (8%) – strengthening land holding rights of women. Agroforestry practices variables across the study catchments had statistically significant contribution for households' adaptive capacity. For example, average income (0.804) and TLU (0.780) in ZC and TLU

(0.629) in USC; and average income (0.812), and TLU (0.705) in NC has the highest load and positively associated with adaptive capacity. In NC, households with no accessibility of agroforestry information (-0.745) have a significant negative correlation with adaptive capacity. We conclude that, agroforestry practices do have substantial benefit to increase women adaptive capacity and reduce their vulnerability to climate change and food insecurity.

*Keywords: Climate Vulnerability, Agroforestry, Gender, Food Security, Sub-Saharan Africa*

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## **P055 Bioethanol Production from Sweet Sorghum Stalks Grown in Varied Agroecological Zones in Africa**

*Chrispin Kowenje, Maseno University, Kenya*

*Oscar Kambona Ouma<sup>1</sup>, Harun Ogindo<sup>1</sup>, David Onyango<sup>1</sup>, Phoebe Mose<sup>1</sup>, Dorothy Okoth<sup>1</sup>, Alex Barakagira<sup>2</sup>, George Jjagwe<sup>2</sup>, Esubalew Meku<sup>3</sup>, Mesfin Abate<sup>3</sup>, Mulusew Bitew<sup>3</sup>, Georg Sixta<sup>4</sup>, Dominik Schild<sup>4</sup> | (1) Maseno University, Kenya, (2) Nkumba University, Uganda, (3) Debre Markos University, Ethiopia, (4) IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems, Austria*

In the majority of regions in Africa where sweet sorghum is grown, the stalks are mostly abandoned in the fields after harvesting the grains and yet the stalks have a potential of producing bioethanol which may be used for various industrial applications. The utilization of the stalks for bioethanol may not only eliminate competition between biofuels but also add value to a perceived waste product hence cleaning the environment, in addition to availing a comparatively cheaper fossil fuel, that produces less greenhouse gases. Two agroecological zones (AEZs), that is, Buginyanya and Mukono found in Uganda were randomly selected where three sorghum varieties, namely, Narosorgi, Epurpur and Chromatin were planted aimed at determining which AEZ gives a better yield in terms of producing brix, that may further be used to produce bioethanol. At maturity, the Narosorgi produced the brix content ranging from 11.8-14.7 at Buginyanya AEZ, while that grown in Mukono AEZ produced brix content ranging 7-10.5. EPURPUR grown in Buginyanya AEZ produced the brix content ranging 13.6-15.7, while the one grown in Mukono AEZ produced brix content ranging 10.5-12.1. Chromatin variety grown in Buginyanya produced brix content ranging 9.5-15.7, while the one grown in Mukono AEZ produced brix content ranging 11.5-12.7. It was therefore realized that, Buginyanya AEZ was most suitable for growing Epurpur and Chromatin sorghum varieties since they produced a higher brix content under natural conditions. It was recommended that Buginyanya AEZ found in Uganda be subsequently used to grow the two sorghum varieties from which brix will be obtained, which will be used to produce bioethanol.

*Keywords: Agroecological Zones, Bioethanol Production, Brix Content, Sorghum Stalks*

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## **P059 Sustainable Networks for Using Next Generation Quantitative Genetics to Modernize Breeding Programs in Kenya**

*Mercy Wamalwa<sup>1</sup>, Hermann Bürstmayr<sup>2</sup> | (1) Egerton University, Kenya, (2) University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria*

*Michael Okiror<sup>1</sup>, Joel Onyango<sup>2</sup>, Sebastian Michel<sup>3</sup>, Barbara Steiner<sup>3</sup> | (1) Egerton University, (2) African Centre for Technology Studies, Kenya, (3) University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria*

Sustainable networks, in which partners from different continents work together collaboratively on a research project, are an important component of research, knowledge translation, and implementation. The project aimed at forming a sustainable network between scientists from Kenya and Austria to maximize the use of next-generation quantitative genetics to improve breeding programs in Kenya. This work will make major contributions to breeding programs leading to increased productivity, contribute to food and nutritional security, and lower production costs while leading to economic empowerment. We are focusing particularly on quantitative genetic methods such as genomic selection and mutation breeding that are affordable at low cost, therefore accessible and applicable to researchers and breeders working in breeding programs with limited financial resources. We have accomplished one objective on statistical data analysis of plant breeding data using the open-source software package R and general introduction to genomic

selection (GS), by training graduate students, lecturers and researchers from the university and research institutions in Kenya. By the end of the training, the participants were able to analyze the data obtained from their research in plant breeding and plant production field and laboratory trials as well as interpret and display the relevant results. The next objective will focus on advanced training on genomic selection (GS) which is a newly developing and dynamic field that requires expert knowledge and skills through specialized training of breeders. We will achieve this by conducting a series of local trainings and workshops to introduce the concept of GS to local researchers.

*Keywords: Sustainable, Networks, Quantitative Genomic Selection. Kenya*

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## **P060 Partnership Program in Integrated Agri-Aquaculture Systems for Food Security and Poverty Reduction in Eastern Africa**

*Isabel Wagara, Egerton University, Kenya*

Although smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa produce more than 80% of the food in the region, they are the most vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity, poverty and environmental degradation due to low levels of agricultural productivity, profitability and sustainability. Overall, agricultural productivity can be increased through integration, intensification and diversification of agri-aquaculture in smallholder systems, whereby waste from one part of the system becomes a crucial input in other components in the system. This calls for strong cooperation partnerships to exchange and transfer knowledge, skills, technologies and innovations in integrated agri-aquaculture systems (IAAS) to smallholder farmers for enhanced productivity and climate change resilience. Agri-aquaculture provides a cyclic agriculture approach that focuses on recycling, enhancing production and making contributions to climate change effect mitigation. Therefore, the AgriAqua Partnership Program has established a cooperation regional network between Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and Austria to strengthen knowledge sharing for increased food production and poverty reduction by integrating resilient agri-aquaculture systems (AAS) and promoting a guideline integrating triple wins of increasing food productivity, job creation and ensuring sustainable consumption (zero wastes). This project is mainly focusing on promoting IAAS technologies for women and youth entrepreneurship through identification and documentation of improved technologies for integration of Agri-Aquaculture at smallholder levels. The project has reviewed the IAAS status in Eastern Africa, is optimizing MetaDatabase for Agri-Aquaculture Research and has identified country-specific AAS priority areas and technologies for upscaling to enhance enterprise diversification, food production, nutrition security, income generation and poverty reduction among smallholder farmers. These include: integrated fish farming with crops and agroforestry in Kenya; land and water resource management in agri-aquaculture integration in Ethiopia; multiple income generation and enhancing capacity of smallholder farmers through agri-aquaculture in Uganda.

*Keywords: Agri-aquaculture Systems, Gender Diversity, Integration, Resilience, Smallholder Farmers*

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## **P086 Revisiting Climate Change Mitigation Potential in Smallholder Farming Systems in Kenya**

*Eugenio Diaz-Pines, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria*

Smallholder farming systems are vulnerable to climate change, and this is particularly true in subsistence agricultural systems in Kenya. In the Nyando region (western Kenya), extensive baseline information was gained in 2012-2014 about land management and their effects on the contribution to climate change in the frame of the Standard Assessment of Agricultural Mitigation Potential and Livelihoods (SAMPLES) project. Following a socio-ecological questionnaire related to management, and landscape stratification, soil information from >200 farms was obtained and greenhouse gases (GHG) were investigated in situ (60 farms). The project in the region ended, and legacy information, largely unpublished, is still available from the project coordinator. The RECLIK project will deepen the understanding of long-term management effects on C sequestration and the GHG balance of agricultural lands in the region. We will re-analyze the existing information and conduct a re-sampling of selected farms to gain a 10-year long chronosequence of changes in C stocks in the region. A participatory workshop at the beginning of the project will involve farmers and other stakeholders in the process of identifying relevant management practices. The land management from 2013

to present will be specifically investigated. Soil samples from selected farms will be investigated for C and nutrient stocks, isotopic composition and will be incubated for GHG fluxes, in the frame of capacity building activities. Two closing workshops (Maseno and BOKU) will be organized to present our results and engage different stakeholders, as a basis for a policy brief that, by jointly addressing environmental consequences and social limitations, will assist the adoption of specific management practices. The RECLIK project will serve as a basis for a more in-depth research project in the region, particularly with the identification of relevant actors and the consideration of their own perspectives, towards sustainable use of natural resource for climate change mitigation along with achieving food security.

*Keywords: Smallholder Farming Systems, Soil Carbon Sequestration, Soil Greenhouse Gas Balance, Climate Change Mitigation*

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## Panel 3: Water, Environmental Research and Conservation

### **P012** Strengthening Community-Based Research for River Health and Climate Change Mitigation in Eastern Africa

*Andreas Bauer, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria*

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Many cities and towns in sub-Saharan Africa depend on freshwater ecosystems for their water supply. However, the water quality of these ecosystems is often compromised by pollution from industry and agriculture, as well as the effects of climate change. Water quality monitoring in Uganda is limited to physical and chemical indicators, considered short-term and highly variable evidence. Sustainable management of freshwater resources requires long-term and reliable evidence to enable the right decisions for future generations. As an alternative solution to this challenge, community-based monitoring models can provide long-term indications of water quality status, based on the variable response of animal communities to river habitat disturbance and climate change. Currently, these models are not commonly used or considered in Eastern Africa while widely used across the globe to guide efficient, sustainable, and practical measures for monitoring and managing rivers by both local communities and water supply agencies. The research project “STREM – Strengthening community-based research for river health and climate change mitigation in East Africa” aims to conceptualize human impacts and effects of climate change on East African river ecosystems via conceptual cause-effect models, “Driver-Pressure-Status-Impact-Response” Framework (DPSIR) built from multiple lines of evidence such as literature review, local community and expert knowledge and case studies. Within a participatory approach a mixed team of social- and natural scientists analyzes interactions between biological, abiotic, social, and governance indicators, facilitates research-based training using regional rivers as case studies, develops a size-based model of the sensitivity of soft sediment benthic communities to river habitat disturbance and climate change effect, identifies suitable water quality areas, and develops a community user-friendly pictorial model for water quality monitoring alongside research questions that are aligned with the UN SDG indicators.

*Keywords: Sub-Saharan Africa; Freshwater Ecosystems, Water Quality Monitoring, Community-based Monitoring, River Habitat Disturbance, Climate Change, Human Impacts, Conceptual Cause-effect Models, Multiple-lines of Evidence, Participatory Approach, Uganda*

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### **P037** Interfaces for Integrated Land/Water Resource Management

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University, Ethiopia, (3) Haramaya University, Ethiopia, (4) Debre Tabor University, Ethiopia, (5) Amhara Agricultural Research Institute, Ethiopia, (6) University of Ouahigouya, Burkina Faso, (7) University of Mozambique, Mozambique, (8) Kyambogo University, Uganda, (9) Egerton University, Kenya, (10) International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria

This project focuses on interface zones (buffer strips and trees/crops next/relatively close to streams/rivers/wetlands/lakes) by gathering evidence from literature, experimental sites, and pilot studies in different catchments in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Mozambique and Burkina Faso. Knowledge of functioning ecosystem services needs to be improved and applied to restore and sustain the health of crucial natural habitats and ecosystems. This network program will look at all aspects of catchment management, in relation to climate change and socio-ecology. The specific focus will be on land-water interfaces for climate change-relevant activities that contribute to a severe erosion reduction, an increase of carbon sequestration, water infiltration, water holding capacity, and groundwater level, to cope with drought and floods, plus N and P management to increase water quality for human consumption, ecosystem integrity and fish production. Gender and diversity will be integrated as a cross-cutting issue, especially in terms of (1) agriculture and gender adaption capacity, (2) forestry and biodiversity, and (3) water quality and ecological integrity of inland waters. Increasing uncertainty owing to global change mandates that we improve methods to generate knowledge about what trends and mechanisms underlie the qualities of socio-ecosystems that sustain a better world. To monitor impacts, the SDGs offer potential targets and indicators for assessing progress toward achieving the Agenda in 2030. Five pilot projects, represented by our Africa-UniNet partners, will provide the practical material for catchment management using ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions. How these global change-relevant activities can be managed and established at the catchment level will be discussed based on other projects handed into this call by African partners. This will expand the international and geographical perspective while increasing the knowledge base:

1. Gender-specific, adaptive capacity on Climate Change and Food Security Status - A catchment approach to agro-forestry land-water systems.
2. Woody plant-based restoration in the Upper Catchment of Lake Tana.
3. Strengthening Research and Adaptive Management of Buffer Zones in Lake Tana catchment.
4. Strengthening community-based research for river health and climate change mitigation in Eastern Africa
5. Rural women productive resources and their resilience to climate changes

*Keywords: Land, Water, Ecosystem Management, Climate Change Mitigation, Community-Based Research, Africa, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*

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### **P039 ProLit – Promotion and Literature Awareness in Sustainable Fisheries and Water Management Transformation Pathways for Africa**

*Andreas Melcher, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria*

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This project aims to raise awareness for fish and water management in Africa and the Global North. The team will promote a new Book “Sustainable Fisheries and Water Management Transformation Pathways for Burkina Faso” globally and locally, the most important activity will be to translate this Handbook, 150 pages, and the corresponding Fish Species Handbook into French and the most widely spoken language in Burkina Faso, Moorè. The book will be used as a popular scientific publication in public, Schools, Vocational training institutions, and Universities. A comprehensive and helpful literature and publication database is also included. This book results from 10 years of development research in the fisheries and waters of Burkina Faso. The work was carried out by a consortium of researchers and developers dealing with fish in Burkina Faso (Institute for Environment and Agricultural Research, University Pr. Joseph KI-ZERBO, University Nazi BONI, International Union for the Nature Conservation and General Directorate for Fish Resources) and Austria (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, University of Vienna) with the financial assistance of the Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development. They all worked as a team in the framework of the SUSFISH Project (Sustainable Management of Water and Fish Resources



in Burkina Faso). The 2nd-phase undertaking lasted from 2011 to 2014 and from 2016 to 2020. Detailed information on the project is available at [www.susfish.boku.ac.at](http://www.susfish.boku.ac.at). As an arid country, Burkina Faso has implemented a program of reservoir creation with the purpose of providing water to people for any use. As a result, more than 1500 bodies of water are used for irrigation, livestock breeding, domestic needs, industrial usage, power generation, and fishing. For quite some time, fishing was not taken into consideration in the planning and valuation of reservoir creation. However, fishing and aquaculture are gradually included in the complementary purposes of water resource development, especially for large reservoirs. Therefore, and in line with national policies for development, the goal of the SUSFISH project has been to build capacity in fisheries management, by providing reliable information and strengthening human resources. The publication reflects work from bilateral cooperation between Austria and Burkina Faso since the 60ies with a professional training program for Burkinabe youth. Yet, in the SUSFISH Project, the development of human resources targeted mainly higher education by improving curricula in water- and fisheries-related domains, and by contributing to the supervision of students' studies and research in Burkina and Austria. The commitment of the project members to work together and to tackle actual problems in the fisheries sector yielded interesting results covering facets of the natural, political, and human sciences related to Burkinabe fisheries and aquatic ecosystems. This research encompassed a systemic assessment of how links and interactions within and between these facets affected Burkinabe fisheries, including threats to the Burkinabe aquatic ecosystems, climatic changes, fish and benthic macroinvertebrates, and the socio-economic sides. This book does not pretend to fully describe the Burkinabe fisheries and water. But at least it gives insight and stimulation for development and research in that sphere; thus, it gives an understanding of the socio-economic development of African inland waters. The book ends with recommendations to guide the development of science and policy for a better future in fisheries. This critical summary follows the new political trend in Burkina Faso to have a long-term vision for fish resource development as shown by the current national fisheries strategy as well as the global objectives as stated in the Agenda 2030.

*Keywords: Fish, Fisheries, Water Management, Policy Recommendation, Scientific Communication, APPEAR, Burkina Faso*

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## **P049 Collaborative Monitoring for Sustainable Development of Lake Tana UNESCO Biosphere Reserve**

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Lake Tana, part of the Lake Tana UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in Ethiopia, is threatened by numerous problems causing severe threats to the livelihoods of both the lake ecosystem and local residents. The occurrence and rapid expansion of the invasive water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) along several parts of the lake's shorelines are one of the observed threats. In order to develop and implement targeted measures to monitor the spread of water hyacinth, an evidence-based information foundation on the situation of this aggressive neophyte is necessary. Technology-based methods play an increasingly important role in environmental monitoring, especially remote sensing and geoinformatics. The current research seeks to establish a methodology for monitoring spatiotemporal dynamics of water hyacinth by incorporating technical methods and the participation of stakeholders like fishermen, local community, or Lake Tana and Other Water Bodies Protection and Development Agency in the research process. Stakeholder participation through collaborative monitoring will enable integration of knowledge and capacities of non-scientific actors into the research process, which otherwise may be lost to the scientists. For the specific project, we therefore emphasize on the involvement of stakeholders in the elaboration of research questions, data collection and analysis, publication activities and communication about the project. Thus, in this project we have designed and implemented approaches for stakeholder integration in the form of data collection tools as well as interviews and focal group discussions. Data collected by the developed tools act as ground truthing for remote sensing findings. Thus, this paper describes the workflows developed for the satellite imagery analysis using Sentinel-2 of the European Copernicus program and the data collection activities using the open source Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) and its mobile companion CyberTracker, as well as the developed interactive ArcGIS StoryMap to provide project results to stakeholders and interested

parties. So far, corresponding results of implementations and findings derived from test-runs with stakeholders confirm our approach.

*Keywords: Collaborative Monitoring, Participation, Biodiversity, Biosphere Reserve, Invasive Species*

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### **P053 Marine Spatial Planning for Sustainable Use of Lake Victoria**

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*Herbert Chamwada<sup>1</sup>, Oscar Ouma<sup>1</sup>, Francesco Vuolo<sup>2</sup>, Markus Immitzer<sup>2</sup>, Cyrillah Luvega<sup>1</sup>, Moses Oginda<sup>1</sup>, George Otieno<sup>1</sup>, Walter Alando<sup>1</sup>, Denis Masika<sup>1</sup>, Damalie Akwango<sup>3</sup>, Ameria Nabukonde<sup>3</sup> | (1) Maseno University, Kenya, (2) University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria, (3) Nkumba University, Uganda*

Lake Victoria is a freshwater body that is a shared resource by Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. It provides ecological services and supports socio-economic activities to about 35 million people who live around it. Studies were conducted in the Winam and Jinja gulfs found in Kenya and Uganda respectively. The Winam gulf on the Kenyan side of the Lake is shared between three counties namely, Kisumu, Siaya and Homabay. Anthropogenic activities such as agriculture, fish handling, fish farming, water treatment, trading, tourism and urbanization within the basins are affecting the water quality of the gulfs. The basins have undergone changes over the past four decades which have affected the physical, chemical and biological state of the gulf waters, hence altered provision of goods and services. This study set out to determine the spatiotemporal variation in water quality. Samples were collected from national stations, river mouths, select beaches, and some other parts of the lake shores. All parameters sampled and analyzed showed significant differences across sample sites, depth and in different seasons. The sites around Homa Bay and Kendu Bay towns in the Winam gulf, and Masese landing site and Rippon fishing village in the Jinja gulf are the hotspots having higher values in most parameters. There is a need for further assessment in order to support policy decisions for sustainable lake utilization by incorporating marine spatial planning concepts. This requires a transboundary planning and governance approach at the county, national and regional levels.

*Keywords: Anthropogenic Activities, Marine Spatial Planning, Spatio-temporal Variation, Water Quality Characteristics*

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### **P056 Biosorbents for Sustainable Wastewater Treatment**

*Ali Maged Gharieb, Suez University, Egypt*

Water is critical to attaining United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDGs). Clean and accessible water is essential for the daily lives of people, as well as for the production of food, energy, and goods. Over two billion people, or 26% of the global population, still lack access to safely managed drinking water. Therefore, natural/biological sorbent materials have received increased attention for wastewater treatment due to their excellent performance, low preparation costs, and large available quantities. Additionally, inexpensive byproducts from agriculture and industry could have a measurable positive impact on UN-SDG 6: "Clean Water and Sanitation" if used as biosorbents for sustainable wastewater treatment. The project "BioWaT" aimed to pair locally available natural and biosorbents with relevant wastewaters and evaluate the sorbents' performance for sustainable and inexpensive wastewater treatment. Successful outcomes of BioWaT project were already achieved and published. One study investigated the successful synthesis of functionalized algal biochar-clay composite (FBKC). Subsequently, the sorption performance of FBKC towards norfloxacin (NFX) antibiotic and crystal violet dye (CVD) from water was extensively assessed. The characterization studies indicating that the surface area of FBKC was increased thirty-fold with a well-developed pore structure compared to the original precursors. FBKC demonstrated a maximum sorption capacity of 192.80 and 281.24 mg/g for NFX and CVD, respectively. The suited fitting of the experimental data to Freundlich and Clark models suggested multi-layer sorption of NFX/CVD molecules. The mechanistic studies of NFX/CVD sorption onto FBKC unveiled multiple mechanisms, including  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interaction, hydrogen bonding, electrostatic attraction, and surface/pore filling effect. The estimated cost of 5.72 €/kg and superior sorption capacity makes FBKC an efficient low-cost sorbent for emergent water pollutants.

*Keywords: Water Treatment, UN-SDG 6, Low-cost Sorbents, Natural/Biological Materials, Adsorption Mechanisms, Cost estimation*

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## **P069** Surveillance and Removal of Cyanobacteria and Antimicrobial Resistance Genes from Drinking Water Sources

*Aemere Ogunlaja, Redeemer's University, Nigeria*

*David O.Olukanni<sup>1</sup>, Rainer Kurmayer<sup>2</sup> | (1) Redeemer's University, Nigeria (2) University of Innsbruck, Austria*

Cyanotoxins (Microcystins) are toxins produced by cyanobacteria, they are associated with liver damage, liver failure and death. The nature and type of this contamination source is poorly documented in Africa. This study thus aimed at profiling cyanobacteria and microcystins (MCs) in drinking water sources and storage tanks in selected states of Western Nigeria. Sixty-seven (67) water samples were collected from rural and urban areas of Oyo and Osun States, Nigeria, using sterile bottles (15 mL and 1 L). In particular well samples (W), storage tanks (S) and composite samples from Eleyele/ Asejire dams and Ede dam (R) were used in the study. The dams serve as reservoirs for potable water provision for Ibadan and Oshogbo municipalities. The samples in 15 mL containers were preserved immediately with Lugol's iodine for microscopy, and the physico-chemical parameters of the samples were also measured on-site. Samples in 1 L bottles were transported to the laboratory on ice, filtered through GF/C glass fibre filter papers, and preserved at -20°C. Filter papers of samples showing the presence of cyanobacteria from microscopy studies were used for DNA extraction, and regions encoding the synthesis of phycocyanin (PC) as a reference and MCs (HEP, mcyE) genes were amplified using PCR. DNA samples positive for HEP PCR were further subjected to Sanger sequencing. Efforts were also made to analyze the cyanotoxins present in the water samples. Cyanobacteria were identified in 18 of the 67 samples collected, and 10 of the 18 water samples were from storage tanks. Only 8 of the 18 samples contained the mcyE gene. The gene sequence analysis showed that *Microcystis panniformis* predominated in the river water samples, while *Fischerella* sp. were the only cyanobacteria in the storage tank samples. Although HPLC studies did not indicate the presence of cyanotoxins, amplification of mcyE indicates a MC production potential which requires regular monitoring.

*Keywords: Water, Microcystin, Phycocyanin, Storage tank, Oyo State, Osun State*

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## **P082** Drivers and Pressures on Water Quality Characteristics of the Maziba Sub-Catchment, Western Uganda

*Mathew Herrnegger, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria*

*Alex Saturday<sup>1</sup>, Gabriel Stecher<sup>2</sup>, Susan Kangume<sup>1</sup> | (1) Kabale University, Uganda, (2) University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria*

In 1991, Uganda had a population of 18 million people. In only 30 years, in 2020, the population has increased by a factor of 2.6 and has reached 46 million. Similarly, to the nationwide trends, the Maziba catchment of western Uganda has experienced rapid human population growth, encroachment of natural habitats and environmental degradation, which has an immediate negative impact on water quality due to agrochemical pollution and sediment and nutrient loading of surface waters through increased erosion and surface run-off. The changes in land use and land cover (LULC) and the connections to the water quality characteristics are however poorly understood, not only in the Maziba catchment but also for other similar catchments typical for south-western Uganda. At the same time the capacities to analyse and understand the connections between LULC and water quality - a prerequisite for providing adaption and mitigation for the future - are limited. Given this background, the project will (i) investigate LULC changes over time, (ii) measure and analyse the spatio-temporal distribution of physiochemical water quality parameters, (iii) investigate the effects of LULC on soil erosion and (iv) build human capacities through training of relevant tools and methods. The research findings will support existing national policies in Uganda and are also geared towards the realization of relevant SDGs (i.e., SDG-2, SDG-3, SDG-6, and SDG -13). The analysis of the physio-geographic, hydro-meteorological but also population characteristics of the sub-catchment is an essential step towards understanding the spatial distribution of drivers and pressures on water quality characteristics of the Maziba. For this task, also considering the eminent data scarcity in the region, satellite-

based data sources are evaluated for the study region. The analysis covers data on terrain (e.g., slope and Topographic Wetness Index), rainfall and vegetation characteristics and trends, erosion and population density. The findings from this spatio-temporal analysis build the basis for defining relevant measurement locations for water quality and quantity, a core objective of the project. For the current contribution, the space time analysis is presented and discussed.

*Keywords: Uganda, Maziba Catchment, Water Quality, Population Growth, Environmental, Degradation, Land Use Change, Soil Erosion*

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## Panel 4: Public Health and Community Development

### **P048** Protecting Women in Tanzania: Preventing Gender-Based Violence Through Indigenous Approaches

*Zena Mnasi Mabeyo, Institute of Social Work, Tanzania, Helmut Spitzer, Carinthia University of Applied Sciences, Austria*

Gender-based violence (GBV) in Africa in general and Tanzania in particular continues to be a grave social problem. This heinous practice prevails notwithstanding the various efforts undertaken by the governments and other stakeholders. Consequently, women's rights are violated and obscuring their smooth integration into society and attainment of social and economic development. Cultural-specific norms, values and approaches are said to be both the drivers of GBV and panacea for GBV when used positively. This research sought to explore and interrogate the cultural-specific norms, values and approaches that protect women from GBV with a view of informing social work practice in Tanzania. With the aid of qualitative research approach and cross-sectional research design, the findings of the current study indicate that there are cultural-specific norms, values and approaches like traditional initiation rituals, living and accommodation arrangements and post-delivery maternal care and sanctions and punishments to perpetrators of GBV that protected women from abuse in studied regions in Tanzania. The findings show how the globalization process affect some norms and values and recommends how the positive cultural ethos can be mainstreamed into social work education and practice.

*Keywords: Gender-Based Violence, Norms, Values, Abuse, Social work, Tanzania*

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### **P066** Use of Covid-19 ICT Surveillance Applications in Uganda

*Mary Acanit, Kyambogo University, Uganda*

*Nandu Goswami<sup>2</sup>, Robert Stalone Buwule<sup>1</sup>, Karin Schmid-Zalaudek<sup>2</sup>, Bianca Brix<sup>2</sup>, Harald Kessler<sup>2</sup>, Evelyn Stelzl<sup>2</sup>, Adam Salon<sup>2</sup> | (1) Kyambogo University, Uganda, (2) Medical University of Graz, Austria*

Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) have played a central role in the management of the Covid-19 pandemic. Different ICT health-based surveillance applications have been used across the globe to monitor Covid-19 in the population. The aim of this study was to investigate the use of Covid-19 surveillance applications in Uganda with a view of suggesting an effective health-based ICT framework for monitoring pandemics in the country. Using qualitative interviews, data was collected from eighteen Covid-19 surveillance officers in the districts of Kampala, Mukono and Wakiso. Findings indicated that the Covid-19 surveillance applications deployed by the Ministry of Health in Uganda included both web-based and non-web-based applications. The ICT surveillance applications provided accurate, authoritative and timely data. However, there were false alerts as result of inaccurate data supplied by the applications. The use of the applications was effective in the reporting and management of Covid-19 from the communities, to the districts and the Ministry of Health. The adoption of the Covid-19 surveillance applications was mainly driven by the training of surveillance officers, user friendliness of the applications and the use of mobile devices. On the other hand, adoption of ICT surveillance applications was deterred by their reliance on internet connectivity, poor facilitation of the ICT surveillance officers, and high costs of data. The use of ICT-based surveillance applications was effective in the management of Covid-19 in Uganda. However, adequate facilitation in terms of increased pay, data, and regular training was needed for the surveillance officers. This study has implications in community surveillance and management of pandemics, epidemics and other infectious

diseases. The proposed framework can be integrated in the management of non-communicable diseases in a post Covid-19 pandemic period.

*Keywords: Covid-19 Surveillance, ICT Applications, Covid-19 Contact Tracing, Qualitative Research Methods*

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## **P079 Analysis of Determinants of Climate Change Adaptation Strategies Adoption by Rural Female Farmers in Burkina Faso**

*Habi Ky, University of Ouahigouya, Burkina Faso*

*Tiatité Noufé, Serge Stéphane Ky, Adama Oueda | University of Ouahigouya, Burkina Faso*

The transition between tradition and modernity in the context of climate change creates and/or worsens social disparities, increasingly exposing vulnerable layers of society in many African countries. In Burkina Faso, more than 80% of the population lives from primary sector. Women represent more than 52% of this population and are generally pivotal to the organization of the household's economics. Although 95% of the female population in Burkina Faso is involved in agricultural work, for socio-cultural and institutional reasons development policies do not sufficiently or properly take into consideration gender issues. Youth and women seem to have limited access to productive resources and technologies to cope with climate change. This article analyses the determinants of climate change adaptation strategies adoption by women farmers in the northern region of Burkina Faso. Based on the endogenous soil fertility restoration practices best known in this region, the study estimates the adoption of additional strategies using individual-level survey data collected on 106 women farmers in November 2022. Descriptive results show that 24.53 % of female farmers solely use endogenous practices for soil fertility restoration which are anti-erosion techniques (CES). In addition to CES technologies, 6.60 % of women use improved seeds, 38.68 % practice crop diversification, 5.66 % adjust their practices according to the agricultural calendar, and 24.53 % simultaneously practice both crop diversification and the use of improved seeds. The results of multinomial logit estimation show that, compared with the endogenous strategies, farm income has a positive effect on the choice of crop diversification as a climate change adaptation strategy. The choice of strategy for adjusting farming practices is positively influenced by the level of education, the farmer's membership of a producer organization and access to land. Also, access to land improves the probability of combining the use of improved seeds and agricultural diversification as strategies for climate change adaptation. Moreover, the number of agricultural assets in the farmer's household has a positive effect on the choice of this combination of strategies. Adaptation to climate change by women in the northern region therefore recommends improving their access to productive resources in general, and more specifically to land and education or training.

*Keywords: Female Farmers, Productive Resources, Climate Change, Endogenous Strategies, Improved Seeds, Crop Diversification, Burkina Faso*

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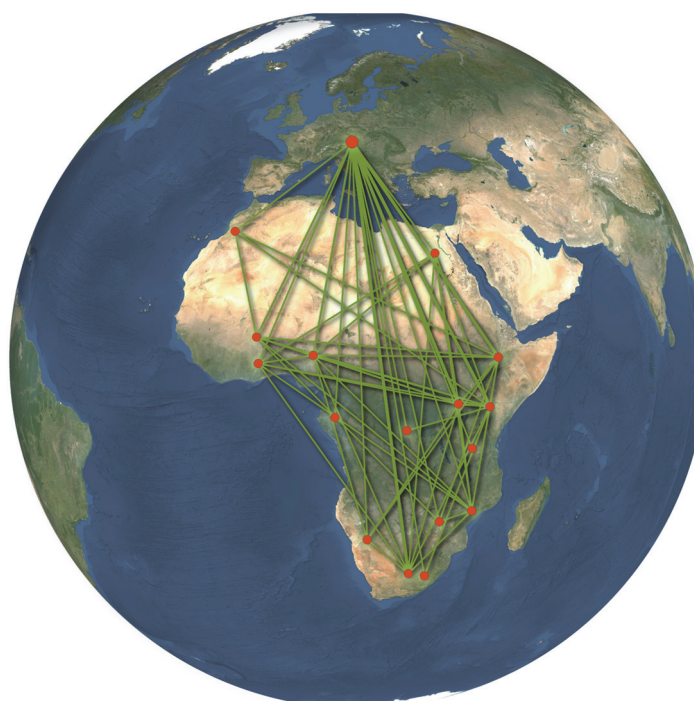


## About Africa-UniNet

<https://africa-uninet.at/en/>

The Austrian-African Research Network (Africa-UniNet) was initiated and is funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF). It was launched by Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation (OeAD-GmbH) and the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU) and started its work in 2020. Africa-UniNet aims to create a long-term, stable basis for cooperation between Austrian and African universities and research institutions. It intends to promote new contacts, deepen scientific cooperation and provide excellent opportunities for innovative joint research projects.

As of 2023, Africa-UniNet finances 61 international research cooperation projects between Austrian and African member institutions. They cover a variety of topics and set out to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The projects comprise partnerships with institutions in 16 countries in Africa: Burkina Faso, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe. In the framework of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Call, Morocco and Lesotho joined the list of partner countries involved in the cooperations.



Map background: <https://s2maps.eu>

Africa-UniNet currently (8 Aug 2023) has 67 active member institution. 26 of them are located in Austria, 41 are located in 17 different countries in Africa: Burkina Faso, Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. All higher education and research institutions in Austria and in all countries of the African continent may become member.

## africauninet

The fourth Africa-UniNet Call is open from 1 September 2023 – 30 November 2023. All active Africa-UniNet member institutions are eligible to apply for funding.

New members, whose membership documents are complete, will officially be admitted, after formal consideration and on the proposal of the Africa-UniNet Board, by the Africa-UniNet General Assembly. Membership fees amount to €500 for African member institutions and €1,500 for Austrian member institutions.

## Africa-UniNet Member Institutions

(data as of 8 August 2023)

<p><b>Austria</b>          Academy of Fine Arts Vienna          Austrian Academy of Sciences          Austrian Foundation for Development Research          Carinthia University of Applied Sciences          FH Joanneum University of Applied Sciences          Graz University of Technology          IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems          International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis          Johannes Kepler University Linz          MCI Management Center Innsbruck          Medical University of Graz          Medical University of Innsbruck          Medical University of Vienna          Montanuniversität Leoben          Paracelsus Medical University Salzburg          Paris Lodron University of Salzburg          Salzburg University of Applied Sciences          University for Continuing Education Krems</p>		<p>University of Applied Arts Vienna          University of Applied Sciences Kufstein Tirol          University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria          University of Innsbruck          University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences          University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna          University of Vienna          Vienna University of Economics and Business</p>
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**Burkina Faso**

Université de Ouahigouya

**Burundi**

Hope Africa University

**DR Congo**

Université Catholique de Bukavu

**Egypt**

Suez University

South Valley University (pending)

**Ethiopia**

Addis Ababa Science and Technology

University

Bahir Dar University

Debre Markos University (pending)

Debre Tabor University

Haramaya University

Mekelle University (aspiring member)

**Gabon**

Centre de Recherches Médicales de Lambaréné

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**Nigeria**

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Enugu State University of Science and Technology

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Nnamdi Azikiwe University

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**South Africa**

Cape Peninsula University of Technology (pending)

University of Pretoria

**Tanzania**

Institute of Social Work

**Uganda**

African Rural University

Busitema University

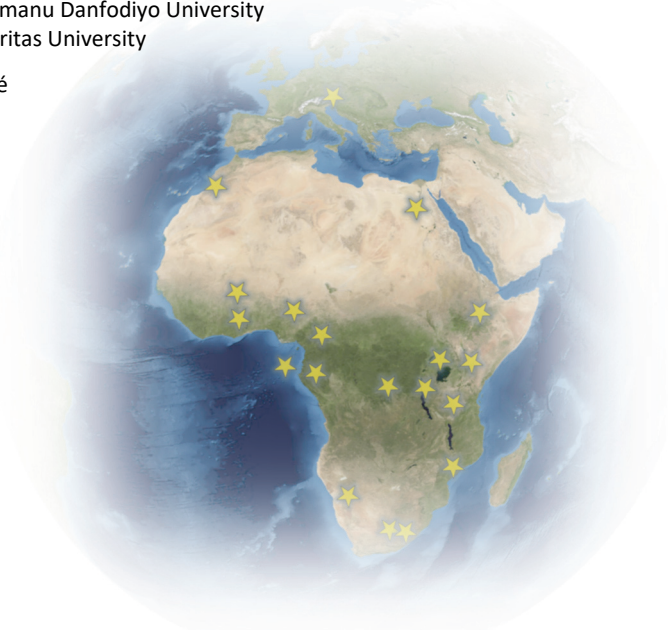
Gulu University

Kabale University

Kyambogo University

Makerere University

Nkumba University



## About the Venue

### Austrian Academy of Sciences

<https://www.oeaw.ac.at/en/>

The Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW) stands as the largest non-university research and science institution in Austria. Its primary statutory objective is to actively promote the advancement of science. Established in 1847 as a learned society, the OeAW currently comprises more than 760 members and 1,800 devoted employees, all committed to conducting innovative basic research, fostering interdisciplinary knowledge exchange, and disseminating novel insights to contribute to progress in both science and society. Academy members actively engage in interdisciplinary interactions to explore crucial questions related to the future, provide guidance on policy and societal matters, and communicate significant scientific discoveries to the general public. They also form commissions that address pertinent issues with significant implications for science and society. Operating 25 research institutes covering diverse fields such as arts, humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, the OeAW plays a pivotal role in advancing pioneering research, addressing forward-looking subjects, and preserving and interpreting cultural heritage.



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The OeAW is committed to providing sustainable support to promising young talents. Within its research institutes, the Academy offers diverse opportunities for young researchers. Additionally, it extends its support to highly qualified young scholars from outside its own institutes by awarding fellowships and prizes. The OeAW is a vibrant hub for disseminating scientific achievements and insights. It serves as a platform for discussions and actively fosters society's enthusiasm for embracing science and technology. Moreover, the OeAW takes the initiative in establishing and maintaining international research partnerships. It also represents the Republic of Austria in international scientific organizations, facilitating collaboration between leading researchers and encouraging Austrian participation in significant international projects. Within Austria, the Academy collaborates with various scientific organizations and funding bodies, actively contributing to shaping the country's research landscape.

<https://www.oeaw.ac.at/en/oeaw/academy/the-oeaw-at-a-glance>

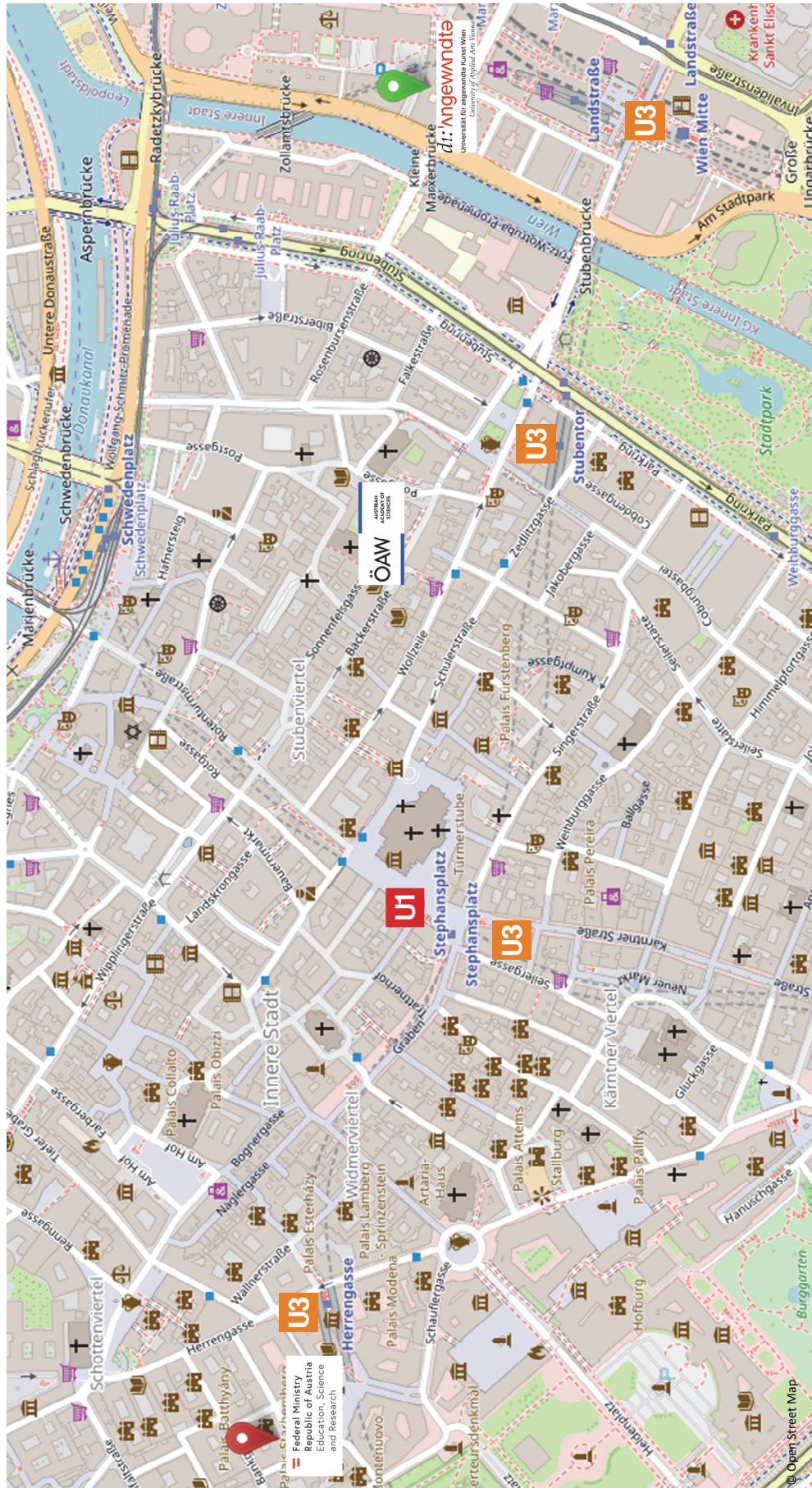


### Austrian Academy of Sciences

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## Map of Vienna's City Centre



The Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, BMBWF, Minoritenplatz 5, 1010 Vienna and the University of Applied Arts Vienna, Expositor Vordere Zollamtsstraße 7, 1030 Vienna are within walking distance of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. All venues are located in the historic centre of the city of Vienna.

## Participants

More than 140 participants from more than 70 different higher education and research institutions in 18 different countries in Africa registered for this event:

Austria	Gabon	Nigeria
Burkina Faso	Ghana	São Tomé and Príncipe
Burundi	Kenya	South Africa
Cameroon	Lesotho	Tanzania
DR Congo	Morocco	Uganda
Egypt	Mozambique	
Ethiopia	Namibia	



Thank you very much for coming!

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*For the past year I've been holding the position of the project coordinator in the WU Global Tax Policy Center, where Africa-UniNet has been one of our projects. Until now we have had two researchers from South Africa staying with us at WU, and we plan to welcome more next year.*



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*I am currently a Professor of Plant Science, a position I attained in 2011. I spent time between 2001 and 2003 as a Guest Scientist at the University of Vienna where I worked under Professor Harald Bolhar Nordemkamp of the Institute of Ecology and Conservation Biology. My visit administered by the OEAD was sponsored by the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I currently teach Plant Physiology and I am involved in a number of Research Projects centering on the improvement of Plant Productivity as well as exploring local biomass resources for energy production. In 2020, my group published information on Aframomum melegueta, a local plant that was discovered to possess bioactivity against COVID-19. This was the first report of such anywhere in the world. It is therefore my intention to push the research further with the hope of discovering other plants with beneficial bioactivity. I function administratively in my University as the Director of the University Advancement Office, charged with solicitation of funding and endowments for the sustainable development of the University and I also oversee Alumni Relations.*

**Joel Onyango**

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*Joel has worked for 15 years in research and management with a focus on science technology and innovation; climate change adaptation and mitigation; water quality, security and access; food security, entrepreneurship and markets, and sustainable development. Joel's areas of expertise include Project resourcing and management; Climate change diplomacy and negotiations; Natural resources management; Strategic planning; Policy dialogue, analysis and development; Science, Technology and Innovation policy and practice; Sustainable development assessment; Market analytics; Capacity development and management; and Innovations systems. Over his career, Joel has been involved in assignments across the African continent, contributed to resources mobilisation efforts, and developed documentation of reference to the entrepreneurship and sustainability ecosystems.*

**Peggy Efua Oti-Boateng**

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*Dr. Peggy Oti-Boateng was appointed the Executive Director at the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) in 2022. In her role, she will provide leadership and strategic direction of AAS's programmes in order to achieve the Academy's vision, mission and objectives. She will oversee both the programmatic and operational management of the organization with a focus to sustainably drive the mandate of AAS through the secretariat team, and to represent the academy globally. Previously Dr Oti-Boateng was the Senior Science Advisor for Natural Sciences and the Director of the Division of Science Policy and Capacity Building in the Natural Sciences Sector at UNESCO Paris (France). Dr Oti-Boateng holds a PhD in Food Science and Technology obtained from University of Adelaide in Australia and BSc, with a specialization in Biochemistry, obtained from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi (Ghana).*

**Adama Oueda**

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*Adama OUEDA is a senior scientist with important contribution to institutional development of the University of Ouahigouya and University Joseph Ki-Zerbo in terms of Teaching, Research, Administration and Service to society: student supervision, curricula design, publications; leading of some cooperation like those with the BOKU University (strengthened through two Susfish projects). His main activities are focused on (1) west African aquatic ecosystem management and monitoring (2) Animal Biodiversity and Conservation (Fish, Plankton, Invertebrates, Crocodiles, Bats) in Burkina Faso and (3) pollution, and biological transfer of pollutants and health issue with relation to aquatic environment. This led to more than 30 supervised thesis (masters and PhD) and more than 70 scientific publications. Adama OUEDA also has an important contribution to higher education management in Burkina Faso by holding positions as Vice-President and now President of a Public University. He serves as Africa-UniNet Country Representative since 2020.*

**Oscar Kambona Ouma**

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*Kambona is trained in Forestry – Wood Science & Technology at undergraduate level from Moi University, Kenya. He then proceeded to Bishop Heber College of the Bharathidasan University in South India where he successfully pursued a Master of Science degree in Environmental Science. He graduated at the University of Salzburg, Austria with a doctoral degree (Dr. rer Nat) in Natural Science - Geography. He has research*



*interest in Protected Areas, Livelihoods and Conservation. He is an Ernst Match post doc fellow with research work in Kakamega Forest, Kenya and Berchtesgaden National Park, Germany. As a result of his research interest and activities on Protected areas, Livelihoods and Conservation, he is an appointed member of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas - Tourism and Protected Area Specialist Group. Dr. Kambona is an internationally certified Green flag trails auditor and an appointed international board member of the World Trails Network, Switzerland since 2020.*

#### **Rong Rong Peng**

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*Rong-Rong Peng has been working at the PLUS since 2015. She is experienced in Erasmus+ KA 107 und is currently responsible for coordinating for Third-Party Funding Programmes, Controlling and Data Survey at the International Office.*

#### **Barbara Putz-Plecko**

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*Barbara Putz-Plecko is a visual artist and professor at the University of Applied Arts Vienna for more than 25 years. Since 2007 she has been Vice-Rector of the University (of research and diversity). She is also Dean of the Institute of Art Education and Head of the Department for Art and Communication Practices and the Textile Department. A focus of both departments is on contextual art practices and on artistic strategies in communities and systems. As an artist and researcher, she has collaborated with many academic and non-academic institutions and grassroots organizations, and she has acted as supervisor, project partner and coordinator of numerous art projects not only in Europe but also in Africa, Asia, Central America and the US. Her long-term research focus is on inter-disciplinary, trans-disciplinary and trans-cultural collaborative processes and the exploration of participatory practices in the arts.*

#### **Kirsten Ruether**

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*I am an historian of Africa, with an empirical focus on Southern Africa, more particularly South Africa and Zambia. My main research areas cover issues of late colonial housing, religion change and colonialism, biography and family history research. I am currently working on the burial of "Dennis the Goat", an Umlazi celebrity, who was murdered in the township in 1992 and whose burial arrangements for a few weeks created a media hype in KwaZulu-Natal newspapers as his owner was determined to give him "a human burial" - all of this in the midst of the South African transition, a political fragile situation and increased levels of political violence. It is a story of resilience, humor, love and disrespect.*

#### **Courage Saba**

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*Courage has been working in the international office since 2015 and rose through the ranks to the Director of the office in 2021. He is an Associate Professor of Microbiology in the Department of Microbiology and specializes in one health approaches to the menace of antimicrobial resistance. He is also a member of the Joint FAO/WHO committee for microbiological assessment of food and publishes extensively in his field.*

#### **Alex Saturday**

Kabale University | Uganda | [salex@kab.ac.ug](mailto:salex@kab.ac.ug)

*Alex Saturday is an environmental scientist based in Uganda. He studied at Kabale University where he attained an undergraduate degree in Environmental Sciences (2013). Thereafter he studied at Kenyatta University and the University of Dar es Salaam and attained a Master of Science in Integrated Watershed Management (2016) and a PhD in Environmental Sciences (2021), respectively. He has worked at Kabale University in the Department of Environmental Sciences since 2017. Since 2019, he coordinated postgraduate studies in the Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences.*

#### **Annette Schatzmann**

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*A trained linguist, Annette Schatzmann has worked in the field of education for over 20 years, within various international contexts at both public and private institutions in France. Currently, she is coordinating the FH Salzburg International Office strategy and team.*

### **Erich Schmutzhard**

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*Born and schooling in Upper Austria. Medical studies in Innsbruck, A, and Cleveland, USA. From 1974 - 1977 training in internal medicine and surgery, 1977 tropical medicine in Liverpool, UK, 1978 - 1982 Mnero Hospital, Nachingwea, Tanzania. 1983 - 1987 training in Neurology in Innsbruck and Bangkok, Thailand, 1994 additional specialization in Critical Care. 2000: Professor for NeuroCritical Care at MUI. Since 1994 lecturer in Tropical Neurology at BNITM, Hamburg Eppendorf, Germany. Main research interests: CriticalCare Neurology, Tropical Neurology and Infectious Diseases of the Nervous System. In total 378 peer reviewed publications, editor and coeditor of books on CNS infection and critical care and emergency neurology.*

### **Eva Schulev-Steindl**

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna | Austria | [eva.schulev-steindl@boku.ac.at](mailto:eva.schulev-steindl@boku.ac.at)

*Eva Schulev-Steindl has taken up the position of Rector of the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna as of February 1st, 2022, where she held a professorship for law (2008-2014). In 2003 she habilitated in Public Law at the University of Vienna, where she was Associate Professor (2004-2007). She was Professor of Public Law and Business Law (2014-2022) and since 2019 Vice Dean at the Faculty of Law of the University of Graz.*

### **Ana-Maria Simionovici**

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*Dr. Simionovici has been working for the University of Continuing Education Krems since 2019, with the task of establishing and implementing an independent central organizational unit for the development of international relations for and with the university. After studying in Canada and Austria as well as after over a decade of professional experience on two bases (internationalization and academia) in the higher education area, she now dedicates herself exclusively to her professional goal at the UWK, namely to work, support and shape internationalization of academic continuing education.*

### **Ruby Sircar**

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*I love pop culture and how it represents itself in diasporic public spaces, especially when it wears an anti-colonial face. Current favorite examples are Ms. Marvel and Master of None. Performance and language, sound and migration, capital and image are the basic building blocks of my artistic and scientific work: at the Academy of Fine Arts - whether as a teacher or works council member -, on the board of IG Bildende Kunst and the Vereinigung Bildender Künstler:innen Österreich.*

### **Gabriele Slezak**

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*Gabriele Slezak holds a PhD in sociolinguistics and is currently a lecturer and senior researcher at the Department of African Sciences at the University of Vienna. Throughout her career, she has undertaken extensive research in transdisciplinary academic cooperation, focusing on the areas of food security, sustainable fisheries, and water management in West Africa and the examination of linguistic diversity within higher education systems. In recent years, Gabriele's research has also extended to the continuity of colonial racist ideology in research contexts, to foster self-reflexive learning attitudes in transnational academic partnerships and working to create a transformative space that dismantles colonial mindsets and encourages critical thinking. By adopting a decolonial lens, she aims to contribute to a more inclusive and equitable academic environment. Gabriele is also working in the field of development studies at the Austrian Foundation of Development Research (ÖFSE).*

### **Helmut Spitzer**

Carinthia University of Applied Sciences | Austria | [h.spitzer@fh-kaernten.at](mailto:h.spitzer@fh-kaernten.at)

*Professor of Social Work. Research experience in East Africa. Research areas: Social work, social development, conflict studies, children in difficult circumstances.*

### **Barbara Steiner**

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*Since 2010 University Assistant for plant breeding at University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna. Main areas of research: Wheat genetics and genomics, Fusarium head blight (FHB) resistance breeding*

*of bread wheat and durum wheat, mapping and isolation of disease resistance genes, molecular plant-pathogen interaction, development of methods and tools for genomics-assisted breeding.*

### **Elke Stinnig**

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*Elke Stinnig started her career as the programme manager for the North-South Dialogue Scholarship Programme at Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation in 2005. She was involved in setting up the Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development (APPEAR) and since then has been working as a programme officer, with a focus on the scholarship component and gender issues. She is also the representative of the APPEAR team in the Advisory Board and Donor Harmonization Group. Elke Stinnig obtained a master's degree in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, and a bachelor's degree in African Studies from University of Vienna. She is presently undertaking a master programme in African Studies at the University of Vienna.*

### **Christof Sumereder**

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*Christof Sumereder is Professor at FH Joanneum, University of Applied Sciences in Kapfenberg, Austria. He studied electrical engineer at Graz University of Technology and finished his PhD thesis in High Voltage Engineering. As expert in renewable energy systems he is head of the EAS LAB for innovative energy solutions at FHJ. With Uni Zambeze the APPEAR-project RETEM was finished in 2020.*

### **Barbara Tasser**

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*Dr. Tasser as the Director of International Services at the University of Innsbruck has extensive knowledge in the field of mobility, exchange and internationalisation activities in higher education. Being a trained archaeologist, she moved on to an administrative career in 2004. Being on the forefront of transnational mobility and research activities within the EUREGIO EGTC framework, she is well aware of the required mind- and skillset for inter-institutional collaboration in complex settings. She contributes with her expertise to the Aurora European Universities Alliance where she is foremost involved in "Aurora Borderless Learning".*

### **Retselisitsoe Thamae**

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*Retselisitsoe I. Thamae is a Senior Lecturer in Economics and a member of the Energy Research Centre and the Innovations Committee at the National University of Lesotho. He is also serving as a non-executive member of the Board of Directors and a member of the Monetary Policy Committee at the Central Bank of Lesotho. His research interests include issues related to financial regulation, macroeconomic policy and energy economics. Some of his work appears in journals such as the Journal of Banking Regulation, Economic Analysis and Policy, and Utilities Policy.*

### **Johan Thom**

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*Johan Thom (b. 1976) lives and works in Pretoria as a visual artist. He holds a PhD in Fine Art from the Slade School of Fine Art (UCL) and is an Associate Professor and Coordinator of Fine Art at the University of Pretoria. Thom's artistic interests have gradually shifted from the body a site of identity to a close exploration of the performative, material relationship between the body and found objects. Solo exhibitions by Thom include the Johannesburg Art Gallery (2008), Iwalewahaus (2010), Nirox Project Space (2014), the Goodman Gallery (2015) and Kalashnikov Gallery (2023). Group exhibitions include the Venice Biennale (2003), the Canary Islands Biennale (2006) and the Palazzo delle Papesse (2008). Thom has also curated several large-scale exhibitions including The Potchefstroom National Arts Festival (2016-2019) and 'New World Order' for the Turbine Art Fair (2020), a survey of South African artists working in academia.*

### **Salaheddine Tiar**

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*Salaheddine Tiar presently serves as Private Secretary of H.E Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation at the African Union Commission HQ November; 2022 – May 2023: Project Officer, DDR / SSR, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Governance and Conflict Prevention Directorate, Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department, African Union Commission; October 2022 – November 2022 : Documentation*

Specialist, FAO HQ, United Nations Food Systems coordination hub, Egypt; January 2022 – November 2022: Executive Assistant & Translation, UNDP Algeria.

### **Muvari Tjiurutue**

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Senior Lecturer with a PhD in Plant Biology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA, obtained in 2016. My research interest is on secondary compounds on plant parasites, their hosts and other species. Currently involved in undergraduate projects on mycotoxin surveillance in Windhoek.

### **Nadia Torsu**

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Nadia Kokui Torsu is a Project Officer at the University of Ghana School of Law, where she combines her expertise in public relations and communications with her passion for international relations and legal education. With a diverse background and a commitment to excellence, she plays a vital role in advancing the objectives of the esteemed institution. Nadia spearheads various initiatives aimed at enhancing the school's reputation, fostering strategic partnerships, and strengthening community engagement. Her dedication to excellence is reflected in her meticulous project management approach, ensuring the successful execution of various programmes and events. Beyond her work as a Project Officer, Nadia also heads the Communications Unit at the University of Ghana School of Law.

### **Gerhard Volz**

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With an academic background in Political Science, History and Educational Sciences, Mr. Volz is working for the OeAD since 1998. He was initially responsible for higher education cooperation programmes and funding schemes for various regions, such as Central and Eastern Europe as well as development cooperation programmes worldwide, before joining the European programmes in 2004. He acted as coordinator of the Erasmus+ Higher Education sector before being appointed Head of Department for International Cooperation in Higher Education in 2020 – thus being responsible for national, European and global funding schemes in higher education, collaboration with national and international stakeholders, as well as for initiatives such as Study in Austria, Euraxess, Bologna support measures and many others.

### **Isabel Wagara**

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Isabel Wagara is an Associate Professor of Plant Pathology at Egerton University, Kenya. She has over 30 years of university teaching, research and community outreach, and has previously served as Deputy Director for Research at Egerton University for nine years. Her research interests are in integrated plant disease management, host resistance, bioprospecting for antimicrobials and biopesticides, management of mycotoxigenic fungi, mushroom production technologies, and innovative utilization of plants and their associated endophytes to reduce crop losses and enhance climate change adaptation. She has successfully participated in 13 collaborative research projects and is currently coordinator of the Africa-UniNet project AgriAqua.

### **David Claeve Waiswa**

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Lecturer in Animal Production, Rangeland Ecology and Integrated Agricultural Systems. Has been engaged in teaching, research and outreach for more than 3 decades in East African Universities (20 yrs in Makerere University, 1½ yrs in University of Rwanda and 14 yrs to date at Gulu University). He has participated in developing, managing and collaborating in national, regional and international projects. He is currently technical consultant on CO2 compensation/biogas systems project (2021 – 2026) with BOKU. His research interest is in sustainable food systems; harnessing renewal energy sources and systems; counterfeit agricultural and veterinary inputs; mitigating climate-induced effects on agriculture and livestock livelihoods; sustainable rangeland use in arid and semi-arid lands; flexible science teaching and learning approaches.

### **Doris Walter**

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Doris Walter is Member of the Managingboard at the University of Applied Sciences in Salzburg for 18 years. Doris is responsible for HR Management, Internationalisation and international Relationships, Research and Transfer as well as Libraries.

**Mercy Wamalwa**

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*Lecturer/researcher as a plant breeder, application and development of new technologies in plant breeding, disease eradication and contributing to increased food production. Journal paper authored/co-authored: 7; Book chapter authored/co-authored: 1; more than 11 conference papers; several research projects, including Africa-UniNet project.*

**Iris Waringer**

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*Long-lasting experience in international higher education projects and cooperation, Erasmus+ design and organisation of further education seminars, short courses and vocational trainings, many years of experience in project management of transnational programmes including accreditation procedures, quality assurance measures, contracting, project controlling, worked in/on international consulting projects in (higher) education; feasibility studies and conception of secondary vocational schools and universities; project plans, implementation and training measures for educational projects, Research: Quality Management in Higher Education (EFQM), Early School Leaving and Dropout in Austrian Schools, Teaching: Research Methods, Inter-cultural Competence, Business Administration.*

**Bamwerinde Wilson**

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*Associate Professor and Dean of Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Science, Kabale University in Uganda. He has previously worked with International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. He holds a PhD in Agroforestry/Natural Resource Economics, an MSc in Environment Management and BSc. Forestry, all from Makerere University.*

**Gerold Winkler**

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*Expertise in freshwater ecosystem conservation & management and in implementing international capacity development projects, international joint programmes in higher education and North-South networking. Project manager & coordinator of the international Joint Master's Degree Programmes LWM (Limnology & Wetland Management) and AEEM (Aquatic Ecosystems & Environmental Management).*

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*Dereje Engida Woldemichael is currently the President of Addis Ababa Science and Technology University and Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering. He has worked at Addis Ababa University, Curtin University, and Universiti Teknologi Petronas in different academic ranks and administrative positions before joining Addis Ababa Science and Technology University in late 2018. He obtained his PhD degree in Mechanical Engineering from Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS, Malaysia in 2009, his Masters and Bachelors degrees in Mechanical Engineering from Addis Ababa University in 2004 and 2001 respectively.*

**Martin Woller**

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*Martin graduated from the University of Applied Sciences in Kufstein 2004 with a Diploma in International Business Studies. He joined ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA, Austria's official trade promotion organization, at the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber 2005. He served as Deputy Head of ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA in Lagos/Nigeria from 2006-2009, covering 14 countries in West and Central Africa. After one year as Deputy Head of ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA in Shanghai/China Martin spent three years as Head of ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA in Guangzhou/China. 2013 Martin was appointed Head of ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA in Tripoli/Libya. In August 2015 Martin took over the position of Head of ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA in Cairo/Egypt being in charge for Egypt, Libya, and Sudan. Since August 2021 Martin is the Regional Director Africa & Middle East at the ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA head office in Vienna, being responsible for organizing the signature event for business between Africa and Austria, the AFRICA DAY (<https://www.africa-day.at>).*

**Mark Wossidlo**

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*Mark obtained his PhD in 2011 at Saarland University in the lab of Jörn Walter, where he was investigating the mechanism of active DNA demethylation in early mammalian embryogenesis. He went on to study epigenetic reprogramming in pluripotent stem cells and early embryos during his postdoctoral studies in the laboratories of Renee Reijo-Pera, Vittorio Sebastiano, and Joanna Wysocka at Stanford University, USA. Mark then started his group leader position at the Medical University of Vienna, where he is now focusing his research on epigenetic reprogramming and the emergence of epimutations in early development.*

**Tafere Melaku Yalew**

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*Tafere Melaku Yalew (PhD) is the current President of Debre Markos University, of which he was also Vice President of Administrative & Students Affairs and President of the Forum of the Federal Public universities in Amhara Region. He has devoted his time, mainly for the last five years, to addressing the challenges of Ethiopian Higher Education and bringing the overall transformation of Debre Markos University (DMU). He wrote a book on the challenges of Ethiopian Higher Education and advised the government to exercise and ensure academic freedom in higher education institutions. He is highly committed to internationalization as he strongly believes that internationalization is one of universal guiding principles for any higher educational institution. He has tried to strengthen partnerships with both domestic and foreign partner institutions because he wants to see DMU more visible in the world.*

**Felicia Yieke**

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*Full Professor of Applied Linguistics at Laikipia University. She has a PhD in Applied Linguistics from the University of Vienna (Austria), a Master of Philosophy in English from Moi University (Kenya), and a Bachelor of Education (Arts) from Kenyatta University (Kenya). Prof. Yieke is the Director of Graduate School since August 2019. In 2022, she was appointed acting Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic, Research and Student Affairs, a position she held for one year. Prof. Yieke was recognized as a Founder Member of Laikipia University during the Charter Award Ceremony on 19th February 2013 that was presided over by the Third President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Mwai Kibaki. Her research interests are in the areas of Sociolinguistics and Discourse Analysis. She also teaches Human Rights, Communication in Leadership and Management, Corporate Communication, Managerial Communication, Communication Ethics and Research Methods.*

**Menberu Zeleke**

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*Senior instructor and researcher as Associate Professor of Environment and Development, Vice President for Academic, Research, Technology Transfer and Community Service, and a development project implementer from Debre Tabor University, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Ethiopia. He has more than 23 years of work experience in governmental, and academic institutions and more than 40 peer-reviewed publications in the area of climate change vulnerability, Disaster risk Management, adaptation and development, and food security. He has advised/being advising over ten PhD students at Pan African University, Nigeria, University of Gondar, Bahir Dar University and Arba Minch University.*

**Nina Zuckerstätter**

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*Nina Zuckerstätter studied Development Studies at the University of Vienna, Socioeconomics at the Vienna University of Economics and Business and attended a school for photography. She was previously responsible for projects and scholarships within the Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development (APPEAR) at the International Agency for Education and Internationalisation (OeAD). Nina Zuckerstätter supports the organization of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa-UniNet General Assembly in Vienna and serves as photographer for this event.*



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