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4th Africa-UniNet General Assembly

University of Saïda Dr. Moulay Tahar, Algeria, 28–30 September 2026

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Welcome

Hubert Hasenauer, President of Africa-UniNet, BOKU University

Dear Participants,

As President of the Austrian Africa-UniNet, it is my pleasure to welcome all participants to the 4th General Assembly at the University of Saïda, Algeria. We are gathered in a place of remarkable geographical and historical significance. Situated at the crossroads of the Mediterranean and the Sahara, Algeria has long been a meeting point of cultures, ideas, and intellectual traditions. This spirit of dialogue and exchange lies at the very heart of Africa-UniNet.

Universities remind us that knowledge knows no borders. Scientific excellence flourishes when diverse traditions of knowledge engage in dialogue, challenge one another, and contribute their distinct perspectives to our shared understanding of the world. From the smallest nanoparticles to the vastness of the universe, discovery advances through curiosity, openness, and collaboration.

Since its establishment six years ago, Africa-UniNet has put this conviction into practice by fostering partnerships between Austrian and African higher education institutions. Our network has created opportunities for academic exchange, collaborative research, and lasting institutional cooperation based on mutual respect, trust, and scientific excellence.

At a time when global challenges – from climate change and public health to food security and digital transformation – transcend national borders, international scientific cooperation has never been more important. Our network demonstrates how collaboration across cultures, disciplines, and institutions can generate new knowledge and innovative solutions for the benefit of our societies.

Yet, the true strength of the Austrian Africa-UniNet lies not only in its institutions, but also in its people. It is your curiosity, commitment, and generosity that have transformed this network into a vibrant academic community. For this, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you, and especially to our hosts at the University of Saïda. Your engagement has laid the foundation for lasting partnerships and will continue to shape the future of Africa-UniNet.

I wish you a successful and inspiring General Assembly. May the coming days strengthen existing collaborations, inspire new partnerships, and reaffirm our shared commitment to advancing knowledge through international cooperation.

Univ.-Prof. Dr. DDr. h.c.
Hubert Hasenauer
President of Africa-UniNet



Picture: The Africa-UniNet Board 2020-2026 at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in 2023. From left to right: Christian Anieke (Godfrey Okoye University), Nzula Kitaka, Vice-President (Egerton University), Belachew Gebrewold (MCI Innsbruck), Zena Mabeyo (Institute of Social Work), Hubert Hasenauer, President (BOKU University), Anke Bockreis (University of Innsbruck). © OeAD/Nina Zuckerstätter

Fethallah Ouahbi Tebboune, Rector of University of Saïda Dr. Moulay Tahar

On behalf of the University of Saïda Dr. Moulay Tahar, and on my own behalf, it is with great pride and heartfelt emotion that I have the pleasure of welcoming the distinguished participants to the 4th General Assembly of the Africa-UniNet Network. Hosting this prestigious gathering marks a significant milestone in the international development of our University. It provides an exceptional forum for deepening scientific dialogue, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and strengthening enduring partnerships in the service of our students, researchers, and institutions.



This General Assembly also reflects Algeria's steadfast commitment to academic openness. Deeply rooted in its African identity and naturally oriented towards Europe, our country has long been dedicated to strengthening dialogue and cooperation between the two continents. In this regard, Africa-UniNet stands as an exemplary initiative, bringing together African and Austrian universities around a shared ambition: to advance excellence in research, innovation, and higher education. For the University of Saïda, this event is fully aligned with our internationalisation strategy. Through academic mobility, joint research projects, and strategic partnerships, we reaffirm our determination to strengthen our integration into the international academic community and to contribute actively to the creation and dissemination of knowledge.

I extend my sincerest gratitude to Africa-UniNet, to our Austrian and African partners, and to all those whose commitment has made this gathering a success. It is my sincere hope that this 4th General Assembly will give rise to fruitful exchanges, ambitious initiatives, and lasting collaborations, in the service of science, knowledge sharing, and progress.

Jakob Calice, Managing Director, OeAD

The Austrian-African Research Network Africa-UniNet, established in 2020, represents an important innovation and an investment in the future. Africa-UniNet fosters new academic partnerships between Austrian and African higher education institutions while strengthening existing collaborations in research and teaching. It provides a platform for creating and sustaining institutional partnerships, which find their most tangible expression in exciting and innovative research projects and their outcomes. The network's broad disciplinary spectrum of research questions and collaborations is united by the shared objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The focus is not on basic research, but on generating applied knowledge that contributes to improving ecological, social, and economic living conditions.

As Managing Director of the OeAD, Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation, which implements Africa-UniNet, I am delighted to see the vibrant, creative, and highly professional scientific community that has emerged within just a few years.



In a world marked by instability and uncertainty, by geopolitical, environmental, and economic crises, and in which rules-based international and transnational orders and mechanisms for peaceful conflict resolution are increasingly being called into question, scientific cooperation on an equal footing has become a cornerstone of a fact-based and solution-oriented approach to addressing the many challenges facing our world.

Such cooperation, driven by the shared pursuit of truth and knowledge, also makes a vital contribution to a culture of peace that connects societies and nations – a culture whose full realisation is now more urgently needed than ever before. Austria has recently sent a strong signal of its

commitment to deepening peaceful cooperation in the fields of business, environmental sustainability, science, culture, and politics through the adoption of its new Africa Strategy. With its prominent role within this strategy, Africa-UniNet is making a key contribution to continuing this path together with our many institutional partners and the numerous researchers and scientists involved in the programme.

Introducing the 4th General Assembly Meeting

Network Administration: According to the Africa-UniNet Statutes, General Assembly Meetings are held regularly, alternating between Austria and African partner countries. In 2026, members will elect a new Africa-UniNet Board, including a new President and Vice-President. The meeting will also provide an opportunity to reflect on lessons learned and discuss possible updates to selected processes and provisions of the Africa-UniNet Statutes.

Scientific Exchange: Scientific exchange is a core element of Africa-UniNet. To date, more than 100 Africa-UniNet projects have been implemented. The General Assembly Meeting provides a platform to present project results and discuss current developments in research, higher education, and international cooperation through the keynote "Translating Science into Practice", the plenary sessions "Science Diplomacy and Sustainable Partnerships" and "Open Knowledge and Innovation in Higher Education and Research", as well as the parallel sessions "Shaping Sustainable Spaces and Environments" and "Shaping Sustainable Futures through Health and Technology". Africa-UniNet project partners will also present their work in a poster exhibition.

Future Cooperation: The event provides opportunities to build new academic connections, explore funding opportunities, and strengthen long-term partnerships between higher education and research institutions across Africa and Austria. The session "From Funding to Future Cooperation" will explore how funding programmes, and academic mobility can support long-term institutional cooperation. The Institutional Exchange Fair will offer participating institutions a space to present their activities, exchange ideas, and identify opportunities for future collaboration.



Participants of the 3rd Africa-UniNet General Assembly at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna in 2023.
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Programme

28–30 September 2026

University of Saïda Dr. Moulay Tahar, Algeria

Sunday, 27 September 2026 | Welcome to Saïda

Check-in at **Hotel El-Forsane** or **Hotel Maati** in Saïda upon arrival from Oran or Algiers

17:00 **Inofficial Welcome at Hotel El-Forsane and Registration**

19:00 **Dinner at Hotel El-Forsane**

Monday, 28 September 2026 | Cooperation

Opening and Institutional Introductions

08:00 Pick-up from hotel and drive to University of Saïda

08:15 – 10:00 **University Tour and Coffee**

Room: Auditorium

Moderator: **HANAÂ BERREZOUĞ**, University of Saïda

10:00 – 10:45 **Official Welcome Addresses and Opening Remarks**

FETHALLAH OUAHBI TEBBOUNE, Rector of University of Saïda

Governor of Saïda Province

Algerian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

Video message from **EVA-MARIA HOLZLEITNER**, Austrian Federal Minister for
Women, Science and Research

WOLFGANG SPADINGER, Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to Algeria

JAKOB CALICE, Managing Director, OeAD

HUBERT HASENAUER, President of Africa-UniNet, BOKU University

10:45 – 11:30 **Keynote Address: Translating Science into Practice – Key Stakeholder
Categories within the Science-Policy Interface**

PAUL T. YILLIA, The Energy Nexus Network, Sierra Leone

11:30 – 13:00 **Round of Introductions: REPRESENTATIVES** of Africa-UniNet Member Institu-
tions, Participating Institutions and Algerian Universities

Presentation: The Algerian Higher Education System

NOUREDDINE HALLA, Vice-Rector of External Relations, University of Saïda

13:00 – 13:15 **Group Picture**

Room: Library

13:15 – 14:30 Lunch

From Funding to Future Cooperation

Room: Auditorium

Moderator: **BELACHEW GEBREWOLD**, MCI Management Center Innsbruck, Austria

14:30 – 16:00 **Plenary Session 1: Science Diplomacy and Sustainable Partnerships**

Science Diplomacy 2.0: Trust, Open Knowledge, and Multilateral Action for Global Public Goods. VERONIKA WITTMANN, Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria

SALDAE and Its Impact – Supporting the Internationalisation of Algerian Universities through Erasmus+ Cooperation. MOUNYA BELHOCINE, Université de Bejaia, Algeria

From Scholarship to Leadership and Long-lasting Cooperation: Academic Mobility as a Catalyst for Sustainable Africa–Austria Partnerships. BENEDICT MUTUA, Technical University of Kenya

Global Partnerships in Higher Education and Research: Opportunities and Impact. JULIA LICHTKOPPLER, OeAD, Austria

Room: Library

Moderator: **GERHARD VOLZ**, OeAD, Austria

16:00 – 17:30 **Institutional Exchange Fair and Poster Exhibition**

Including Coffee

This interactive session invites participants to visit table-based stations hosted by representatives from each university, allowing for focused conversations, information sharing, and visual insights into ongoing work. In two rotating rounds, all institutions will have the chance to both present and circulate, with dedicated information tables also available for the funding opportunities introduced earlier.

At the same time, a poster exhibition will take place in the room, showcasing the results of ongoing Africa-UniNet projects. Project partners will be available at their posters, giving participants the opportunity to visit, discuss scientific achievements, and exchange ideas. In addition, the University of Saïda will present posters highlighting its own projects and research achievements.

17:30 Shuttle takes participants back to hotel

19:00 **Dinner**

Perspectives from Research and Practice

08:00 Pick-up from hotel and drive to University of Saïda

Room: Auditorium

Moderator: DEBORAH ODEJIMI, Igbinedion University, Nigeria

08:30 – 10:00 **Plenary Session 2: Open Knowledge and Innovation in Higher Education and Research**

National Commission for Free and Open-Source Software (CNLL): Vision and Contributions. KARIM DJOUANI, CNLL Member, Algeria

AI-Ready Data: From Policy via FAIR Data Sharing to Trustworthy Data Visiting. ANDREAS RAUBER, TU Wien, Austria

Open Knowledge and Collaborative Innovation: Reimagining African Higher Education through International Partnerships. KWABENA SARFO SARFO-KANTANKAH, University of Cape Coast, Ghana

Sharing Algeria's Experience with Program 1275: Integrating Innovation and Entrepreneurship into Higher Education. YASSINE BENZAI, University of Saïda

10:00 – 10:30 **Coffee Break**

Room: Library

10:30 – 12:00 **Parallel Sessions**

Parallel Session 1: Shaping Sustainable Spaces and Environments

Moderator: ZIPPORAH GICHANA, Kisii University, Kenya

Harnessing Ensemble Machine Learning for Evapotranspiration Prediction Under Climate Stress: A Case Study from Semi-Arid Algeria. SHERIF ABUELMAGD, Suez University, Egypt

Mercury Contamination and Biochar-Based Biosorption Potential in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in Uganda. MARY THERESE KAGGWA, Kyambogo University, Uganda

Integrating Remote Sensing and In Situ Data for Wetland Ecosystem Health Assessment within the Pressure–State–Response (PSR) Framework in Lake Tana Biosphere Reserve (LTBR), Ethiopia. DANIEL AYALEW MENGISTU, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia

Co-Habitation, Urban Ecologies, and Spatial Practice in Tamale, Ghana. BAERBEL MUELLER, University of Applied Arts Vienna, Austria

A Review of Built Environments and Urban Spaces Frameworks for Resilient Urban Development in Mombasa, Kenya. MARIFA ALI MWAKUMANYA, Pwani University, Kenya

Parallel Session 2: Shaping Sustainable Futures through Health and Technology

Moderator: HEIDRUN MÖRTL, Medical University of Graz, Austria

Engaging Patients in Drug Development for Leishmaniasis. ASTRID ERBER, Medical University of Vienna, Austria; Infectious Diseases Data Observatory (IDDO), Oxford, UK

Fermentation as a Tool for Nutritional Sustainability: Microbiological and Chemical Insights from Nigerian Traditional Foods. OLUSOLA ABIOLA LADOKUN, Lead City University, Nigeria

Sustainable Energy is More than Only a Study Program. CHRISTOF SUMEREDER, FH Joanneum University of Applied Sciences, Austria

Shaping Sustainable Futures through Innovation: Pilot Community-Owned Renewable Energy Mini-Grids in Rural Lesotho. LEBOLI ZAK THAMAE, National University of Lesotho

The Avenue to Green in Organic Electronics. MIHAI IRIMIA-VLADU, Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria

12:00 – 13:30 **Lunch**

Africa-UniNet General Assembly Meeting | Network Administration

Room: Auditorium

13:30 – 15:00 **General Assembly Meeting**

15:00 – 15:30 **Coffee Break**

15:30 – 17:00 **Continuation of General Assembly Meeting**

17:00 – 17:30 **Wrap up and Closing Remarks**

17:30 Shuttle takes participants back to the hotel

19:00 **Dinner**

Wednesday, 30 September 2026 | Transfer to Oran or Algiers

06:30 Transfer to **Algiers** including **city tour in Algiers**

08:00 Transfer to **Oran** including **city tour in Oran**

One night in a hotel in **Oran** or **Algiers**

Thursday, 1 October 2026 | Departure

Transfer to airport and departure

Optional Excursion and Departure on Saturday, 3 October 2026

Instead of departing on Wednesday, participants may opt to join this excursion at their own expense, available only for those flying out from Oran. Registration for the excursion is required as part of the event registration process. Please note that registration is binding. Estimated cost: EUR 200, payable in Algerian dinars on site. Please note that credit cards are not accepted.

Wednesday, 30 September 2026

We set off to visit the historic town of Boussemghoune on the edge of the Sahara and explore its 4th-century ksar.

The details of the excursion depend on the number of participants and will be announced at a later stage. The excursion will depart from Saïda and will include a visit to the Sahara, followed by a final visit to Oran. Participation is limited to attendees who will be returning from Oran. Participants should be in reasonably good physical condition, and accommodation may be basic.

Saturday, 3 October 2026

Transfer to airport in Oran and departure



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Abstracts

Keynote Address: Translating Science into Practice – Key Stakeholder Categories within the Science-Policy Interface

PAUL T. YILLIA, The Energy Nexus Network, Sierra Leone

Translating science into practice bridges the gap between theoretical research and real-world applications. Often called translational science or implementation science, it typically transforms raw scientific data, clinical discoveries, or pilot programs into standardized, actionable tools, policies, models, and clinical treatments that directly benefit individuals and communities. Translational science or implementation science requires a dynamic network of individuals and organizations within the science-policy interface (SPI) to move research out of academic journals and into real-world applications. The keynote address will provide global insights and personal experiences in addressing gaps between researchers and some key SPI stakeholder categories to ensure that research informs decision making processes and funding priorities for research are aligned to address critical societal challenges like climate change, public health, and technology regulation.

Plenary Session 1: Science Diplomacy and Sustainable Partnerships

This session explores how science diplomacy, internationalisation, academic mobility, and funding programmes contribute to sustainable partnerships in higher education and research. The presentations highlight strategies for strengthening institutional collaboration, research networks, and long-term cooperation between Africa and Europe.

Science Diplomacy 2.0: Trust, Open Knowledge, and Multilateral Action for Global Public Goods.

VERONIKA WITTMANN, Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria

Science diplomacy 2.0 casts science as a global public good and soft power, leveraging multilateralism to manage shared risks peacefully. It advocates sustainable partnerships designed around scientific integrity, where scientific universality meets diplomatic pragmatism to protect global public goods and sustain long-term cooperative capacity.

Additional information: Academic AI—a generic, scalable cloud platform—was used for language improvement. See: <https://acomarket.at/en/portfolio/projects/academic-ai-en> Version GPT-5 (Accessed: 2 July 2026).

SALDAE and Its impact – Supporting the Internationalisation of Algerian Universities through Erasmus+ Cooperation. **MOUNYA BELHOCINE**, Université de Bejaia, Algeria

This presentation introduces SALDAE project, an Erasmus+ CBHE project coordinated by Bejaia University, supporting the professionalisation of international relations offices in Algerian universities. Bringing together Algerian (Bejaia, El Tarf, Saïda, Sétif 1, Sétif 2, Ghardaïa) and European partners (UNIMED, Paris 8, Granada), SALDAE develops tailored internationalisation strategies, builds staff competencies, and creates a contextualised toolbox. The presentation reviews activities, outcomes, and success factors, before opening perspectives on embedding a genuine culture of internationalisation in Algerian universities.

From Scholarship to Leadership and Long-lasting Cooperation: Academic Mobility as a Catalyst for Sustainable Africa–Austria Partnerships. BENEDICT MUTUA, Technical University of Kenya

This presentation examines how scholarships and academic mobility have evolved from educational opportunities into strategic drivers of leadership, innovation, institutional capacity, and enduring Africa-Austria cooperation. Drawing on Africa-UniNet experiences and partnerships, it demonstrates how alumni networks, collaborative research, and knowledge exchange create sustainable development impacts beyond individual beneficiaries. The presentation proposes pathways for strengthening long-term, mutually beneficial academic partnerships.

Global Partnerships in Higher Education and Research: Opportunities and Impact. JULIA LICHTKOPPLER, OeAD, Austria

This presentation explores how Austrian public funding enables global partnerships in higher education and research. Drawing on Africa-UniNet projects and a wider portfolio of funding opportunities with African countries and other regions, it highlights pathways for international cooperation. It also considers the wider impact of seed funding and international exchange, and opens a discussion on how outcomes beyond publications and follow-up projects might be captured more systematically.

Plenary Session 2: Open Knowledge and Innovation in Higher Education and Research

Focusing on open knowledge, research data, innovation, and international partnerships, this session examines how collaborative approaches strengthen higher education and research. The presentations highlight research data management, data sharing, entrepreneurship, and international cooperation that enhance research excellence and institutional capacities.

National Commission for Free and Open-Source Software (CNLL): Vision and Contributions. KARIM DJOUANI, CNLL Member, Algeria

This talk introduces the National Commission for Free and Open-Source Software (CNLL - Commission Nationale du Logiciel Libre) of Algeria. The CNLL was established to drive the adoption, development, and governance of Free and Open-Source Software across higher education, research institutions, and public administration. By promoting open standards, open educational resources, and open data, the CNLL aims to reduce reliance on proprietary systems, enhance cybersecurity resilience, and cultivate local technical expertise among researchers, educators, and students.

AI-Ready Data: From Policy via FAIR Data Sharing to Trustworthy Data Visiting. ANDREAS RAUBER, TU Wien, Austria

Data is central to research, yet while large institutions support big-data ecosystems, long-tail research data is often managed inconsistently, limiting quality, reproducibility, and reuse. This talk examines how universities are professionalizing research data management through policies, processes, repositories, and support services. We discuss how these initiatives improve research efficiency, teaching, and collaboration, while enabling both open data sharing and secure access to sensitive data through trusted research environments.

Open Knowledge and Collaborative Innovation: Reimagining African Higher Education through International Partnerships. KWABENA SARFO SARFO-KANTANKAH, University of Cape Coast, Ghana

This presentation explores how open knowledge, collaborative innovation, and international partnerships can reshape higher education and research in Africa. Drawing on the experience of the University of Cape Coast and its engagement with Africa-UniNet and other institutions around the globe, the talk examines how open-source approaches, interdisciplinary research, and equitable academic collaboration and partnerships can strengthen research capacity, foster sustainable development, and promote inclusive global knowledge production.

Sharing Algeria's Experience with Program 1275: Integrating Innovation and Entrepreneurship into Higher Education. YASSINE BENZAI, University of Saïda

In response to global economic shifts and the pressing need for sustainable development, higher education systems are increasingly tasked with expanding beyond traditional teaching and research to drive direct socio-economic value creation. This presentation shares Algeria's landmark experience in implementing the ministerial framework historically known as Program 1275 (recently updated under Decree No. 008), a strategic policy designed to systematically embed entrepreneurship, enterprise creation, and innovation within the university system.

Parallel Session 1: Shaping Sustainable Spaces and Environments

This session brings together research on environmental systems, geospatial technologies, and spatial practices to explore sustainable approaches to natural and built environments. The presentations highlight environmental monitoring, land and water management, ecosystem resilience, and context-sensitive planning.

Harnessing Ensemble Machine Learning for Evapotranspiration Prediction Under Climate Stress: A Case Study from Semi-Arid Algeria. SHERIF ABUELMAGD, Suez University, Egypt

Accurate evapotranspiration (ET) estimation remains challenging in semi-arid regions with sparse data. This study integrates physically based models (Priestley-Taylor, API, Advection-Aridity) with ensemble machine learning (Random Forest, Gradient Boosting, Stacking Ensemble) in Algeria's Chelif Basin. Results show persistent PET-AET deficit: summer PET 806-842 mm vs AET 323-327 mm. Stacking Ensemble outperformed individual models (92.86% accuracy, $R^2=0.961$), explaining 96% of monthly ET variance. This framework offers operational ET forecasting in data-scarce contexts, supporting irrigation optimization and drought early warning. Supported by Africa-UniNet (P119 & P168), contributing to SDG 6 & 13.

Mercury Contamination and Biochar-Based Biosorption Potential in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in Uganda. MARY THERESE KAGGWA, Kyambogo University, Uganda

ASGM in Uganda involves the use of unsafe Hg, poor tailings management, and ecosystem contamination. BioGold Project tackles these risks via stakeholder engagement and tailored biosorption technology. Surveys showed a gap between risk awareness and safe handling, disposal, and mitigation practices. Heavy metal analysis showed Hg levels were very high at all sites, exceeding the WHO/FAO/EU reference range for soils (0.1–0.5 mg/kg). These findings show risks to communities and ecosystems. The project develops composite biochar from agricultural residues to remove Hg from wastewater and soils.

Authors: Dr. M. T. Kaggwa, Dr. P. Akoll, Dr. D. Nono, Prof. H. Brink, Dr. N. Haneklaus, Dr. E. Tebandeke, Dr. B. Naziriwo, Dr. D. Kitembo, Dr. B. Arwenyo, Prof. M. Nyeko, Dr. C. Oryema, Dr. I. Achaye, Ms. S. Abalo, Ms. H. Kyomuhimbo, Ms. N. Nchabileng, Dr. L. Satalkina

Integrating Remote Sensing and In Situ Data for Wetland Ecosystem Health Assessment within the Pressure–State–Response (PSR) Framework in Lake Tana Biosphere Reserve (LTBR), Ethiopia.

DANIEL AYALEW MENGISTU, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia

The Lake Tana Biosphere Reserve (LTBR) consists of wetlands that provide essential ecosystem services but are increasingly threatened by anthropogenic pressures. This study integrates the PSR framework with multi-temporal remote sensing (2011–2025) and citizen science to assess wetland degradation in LTBR. High population density and land use change (78% to 85%) drive landscape fragmentation and vegetation decline, especially in eastern floodplains. Combining spatial data with local knowledge reveals spatially variable vulnerabilities, offering a scalable model for evidence-based wetland conservation.

Authors: Daniel Ayalew Mengistu^b, Adrijana Car^a, Agumassie Genet Gela^b, Daniel Asfaw Bekele^b, Andargachew Abeje Derseh^b, Klaus Steinbauer^a, Michael Jungmeier^a, ^aCarinthia University of Applied Sciences (Austria), ^bBahir Dar University (Ethiopia)

Co-Habitation, Urban Ecologies, and Spatial Practice in Tamale, Ghana. **BAERBEL MUELLER**, University of Applied Arts Vienna, Austria

This presentation introduces the transdisciplinary methodology of [Applied] Foreign Affairs, combining urban and artistic research with architectural interventions. Drawing on the Africa-UniNet projects Tamale's Inner Urban Ecologies (TIUE) and Tamale's Urban Resilience (TUR), and earlier investigations under the umbrella title Tamale Territories, this body of work explores co-habitation and urban ecologies as frameworks for understanding urban transformation. Research and spatial practice unfold in parallel through the realization project Tamale Old Airfield Tree Transplanting & Urban Furnishings.

A review of built environments and urban spaces frameworks for resilient urban development in Mombasa, Kenya. **MARIFA ALI MWAKUMANYA**, Pwani University, Kenya

Mombasa is grappling with rapid urban challenges exacerbated by demographic growth and climate-induced vulnerabilities as it adopts smart building codes and rehabilitation of public open spaces. This paper examines strategic frameworks shaping sustainable spaces and built environments that have enabled Mombasa city to transit toward sustainable urban ecosystems through proactive climate and urban governance.

Parallel Session 2: Shaping Sustainable Futures through Health and Technology

This session explores how research in health, technology, energy, and food systems addresses societal challenges. The presentations highlight approaches that improve health and well-being, advance sustainable technologies, and support resilient communities.

Engaging Patients in Drug Development for Leishmaniasis. **ASTRID ERBER**, Medical University of Vienna, Austria; Infectious Diseases Data Observatory (IDDO), Oxford, UK

Drug development for Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) and other diseases of poverty often relies on Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), driven by unmet medical needs rather than a business case. I will outline this ecosystem and provide examples of patient engagement at different stages of drug development for NTDs, including our work on leishmaniasis. Existing drugs for

leishmaniasis have serious drawbacks in terms of safety, resistance, stability, cost, and are difficult to administer. Patients' perspectives can help to develop more acceptable treatments that better reflect needs and complex implementation contexts, while helping to prioritise, making better use of limited funding.

Fermentation as a Tool for Nutritional Sustainability: Microbiological and Chemical Insights from Nigerian Traditional Foods. OLUSOLA ABIOLA LADOKUN, Lead City University, Nigeria

Traditional fermented foods (Ogi, Fufu, Garri, and Iru) represent Nigeria's nutritional heritage and a pathway to food security. This study evaluated the chemical and microbial characterisation of these foods alongside their raw substrates (cassava, maize, and locust beans). Metagenomic profiling revealed dominance of *Lactobacillus delbrueckii* and *Bacillus subtilis*, driving nutrient transformation and detoxification. Fermentation significantly enhanced vitamins, minerals, and antioxidant activity while reducing anti-nutritional factors. These findings position traditional fermentation as an evidence-based, low-cost, and sustainable innovation for combating malnutrition and supporting food security in sub-Saharan Africa.

Sustainable Energy is More than Only a Study Program. CHRISTOF SUMEREDER, FH Joanneum University of Applied Sciences, Austria

Climate change manifested itself this year through heat waves and very little rainfall in Europe. The consequences were low water level, which led to the shutdown of hydroelectric and nuclear power plants, drought damage and crop failures, which led to a shortage of animal feed and forest fires. Due to the electrification of industry and mobility, there is an increase in the electricity demand. This year has shown, sustainable energy represents a great opportunity to counteract climate change. The potential of PV and wind power must be exploited in the coming years. Therefore, it is important to understand how and where to implement sustainable energy technologies.

Shaping Sustainable Futures through Innovation: Pilot Community-Owned Renewable Energy Mini-Grids in Rural Lesotho. LEBOLI ZAK THAMAE, National University of Lesotho

Achieving universal energy access remains a challenge for many rural communities in Sub-Saharan Africa. This paper presents the National University of Lesotho's community-owned renewable energy mini-grids in Motete and Linakeng. Using a participatory model that combines renewable technologies with local ownership and governance, the projects have improved energy access, livelihoods, education, healthcare, and community empowerment. The findings demonstrate that community-owned mini-grids provide a scalable, innovative, and sustainable pathway for rural electrification and energy justice.

The Avenue to Green in Organic Electronics. MIHAI IRIMIA-VLADU, Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria

The presentation will focus on the highlights of our recent research, especially with respect to materials investigated, devices fabricated and the immense potential for follow up research: (1) flexible natural and biodegradable substrates; (2) natural dielectrics; (3) bio-origin, H-bonded semiconductors in the families of indigos, anthraquinones and acridones; (4) bio-degradation protocols for organic semiconductors. Everything will be placed in the context of the mountain that one has to climb in order to reach the coveted "green" for electronics, sensors and integrated circuits.

Posters

Comparing Techno-Functionality of Underutilized Fermented Foods in Austria and Nigeria: The Example of Cassava | P190

Authors: Philipp Fuhrmann¹, Charles Uba², Chidinma Okafor²

Affiliations: ¹BOKU University, Austria ²Godfrey Okoye University, Nigeria

Fabrication and characterization of dye-sensitized solar cells using natural dye extracts as photosensitizers | P091

Authors: Ayodele O. Soge¹, Abayomi F. Oshin¹, Christoph Ulbricht², Felix Mayr², Olumide D. Olukanni¹, Modupe E. Sanyaolu¹, Oluropo F. Dairo¹, Olalere G. Adeyemi¹, Serpil Tekoglu², Markus C. Scharber², Alexander A. Willoughby¹

Affiliations: ¹Redeemer's University, Nigeria ²Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria

From Evidence to Action: Pressure–State–Response in Ethiopia's Lake Tana Biosphere Reserve | P144

Authors: Klaus Steinbauer¹, Daniel Mengistu², Agumassie Genet², Daniel Asfaw², Andargachew Abeje², Adrijana Car¹, Michael Jungmeier¹

Affiliations: ¹Carinthia University of Applied Sciences, Austria ²Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia

Fungal Diversity in Processed Staple Cereals from Namibia: Initial Findings from the FUNGINAM Project | P141

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Tamale's Inner-Urban Ecologies (TIUE) | P094

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Tamale's Urban Resilience (TUR) | P157

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Understanding Sorghum and Groundnut Seed Systems in Eastern Ethiopia: Evidence from Farmers' Seed Sourcing Practices for Designing Last-Mile Seed Delivery Models | P118

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About Africa-UniNet



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

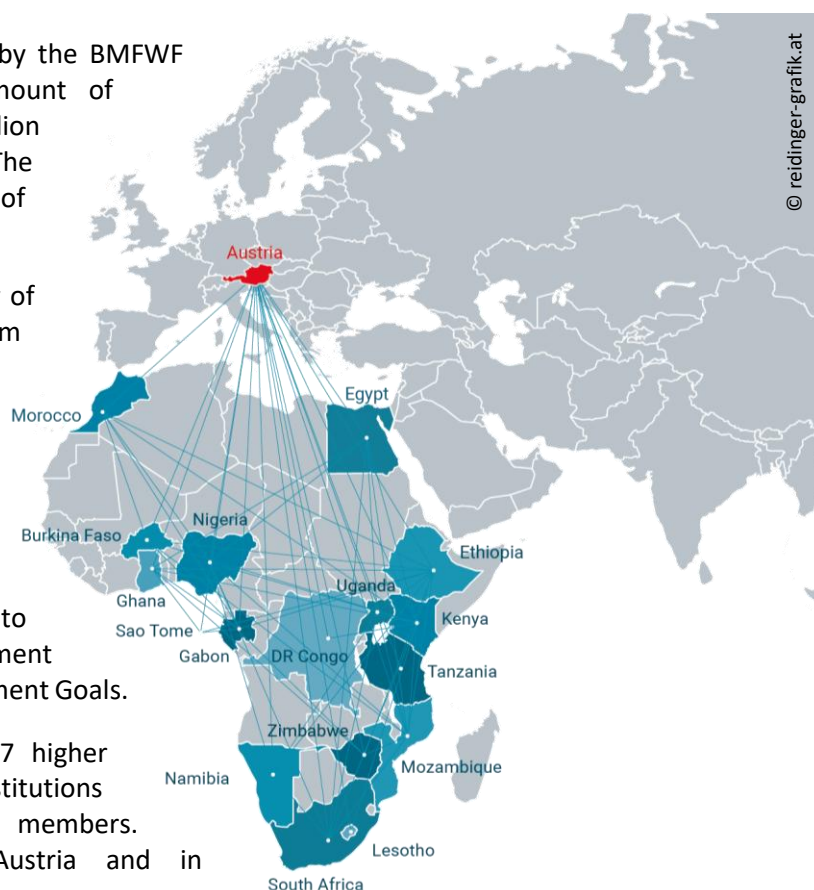
The Austrian-African Research Network Africa-UniNet was initiated by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research (BMFWF) and launched by Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation (OeAD-GmbH) and the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU) and started 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.

Since the start of Africa-UniNet in 2020 six calls for funding have been implemented, resulting in about 120 projects accepted for funding. The projects comprise partnerships with institutions in 18 countries in Africa: Botswana, Burkina Faso, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

The projects are financed by the BMFWF with a total funding amount of approximately 3.5 million euros for all six calls. The projects have a duration of two years.

Their topics cover a variety of disciplines ranging from medicine, health, social work and sociology to agriculture, water resource management and arts. They all share a cooperative and participatory approach, as well as the objective to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

As of 31 August 2026, 77 higher education and research institutions are active Africa-UniNet members. They are located in Austria and in 17 countries in Africa.



Only active Africa-UniNet member institutions are eligible to participate in Africa-UniNet calls. New members with a complete application are formally admitted by the Africa-UniNet General Assembly upon proposal of the Board.

The seventh Africa-UniNet Call is open from 1 September 2026 until 30 November 2026. All active Africa-UniNet member institutions are eligible to apply for funding.



africauninet

Africa-UniNet Member Institutions

(data as of 31 August 2026)

Algeria

University of Saïda Dr. Moulay Tahar

Botswana

University of Botswana

Côte d'Ivoire

University of Nangui Abrogoua

DR Congo

Academy of Fine Arts Kinshasa
Université Catholique de Bukavu

Egypt

Damanhour University
Suez University

Ethiopia

Addis Ababa Science & Technology Univ.
Addis Ababa University
Debre Markos University
Haramaya University
Mekelle University
Oda Bultum University
Wollo University

Gabon

Centre de Recherches Médicales
de Lambaréné

Ghana

University for Development Studies
University of Cape Coast

Kenya

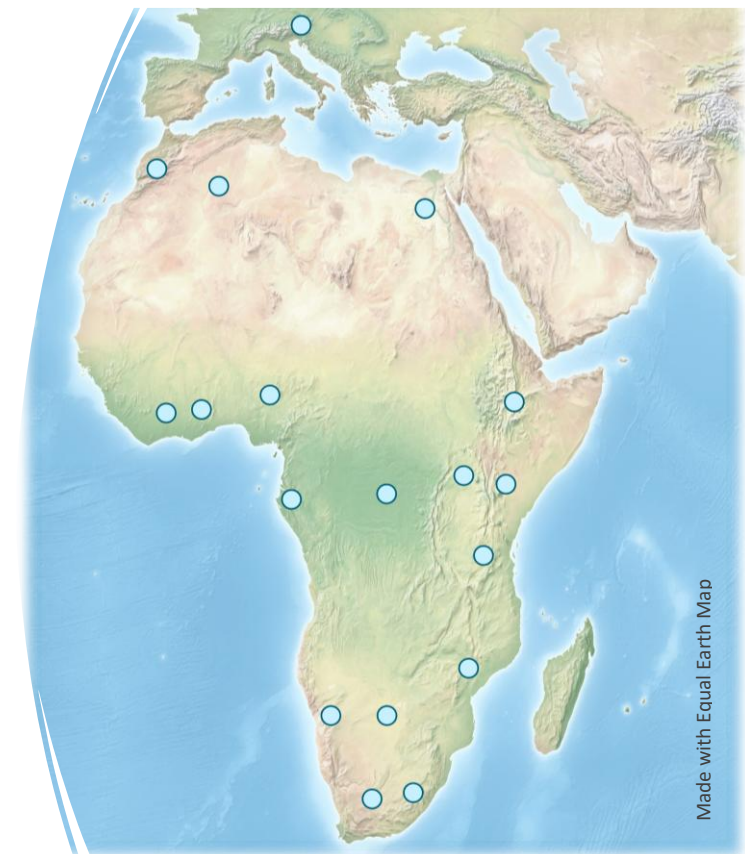
Egerton University
Kibabii University
Kisii University
Maseno University
Pwani University
Technical University of Kenya
Turkana University College
University of Kabianga

Lesotho

National University of Lesotho

Morocco

Cadi Ayyad University



Mozambique

Universidade Zambeze

Namibia

University of Namibia

Nigeria

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Bowen University
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and Technology
Federal University Dutse
Godfrey Okoye University
Igbinedion University
Lead City University
PAMO University of Medical Sciences
Redeemer's University

University of Lagos
Veritas University

South Africa

University of Pretoria

Tanzania

Institute of Social Work
Ruaha Catholic University

Uganda

Busitema University
Gulu University
Kabale University
Kyambogo University
Makerere University
Nkumba University

Austria

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
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
Technische Universität Wien
University for Continuing Education Krems
University of Applied Arts Vienna
University of Applied Sciences Campus Vienna
University of Applied Sciences Kufstein Tirol
University of Applied Sciences St. Pölten
University of Applied Sciences Technikum Wien
University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria
University of Innsbruck
University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences
University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna
University of Vienna
WU Vienna University of Economics and Business

About the Venue

University of Saïda Dr. Moulay Tahar

Advancing Knowledge, Innovation, and Global Partnerships

<https://www.univ-saida.dz/en>

Established in 1986, the University of Saïda Dr. Moulay Tahar (USMT) is a public higher education institution located in the city of Saïda, western Algeria. Originally founded as a specialized institute of higher education, it has grown into a multidisciplinary university serving more than 12,000 students and supported by over 800 academic staff. USMT combines teaching, research, innovation, and regional engagement within a framework aligned with national priorities and international standards.

The University comprises eight faculties, 26 departments, and four campuses. It offers undergraduate, master's, engineering, and doctoral programmes in science and technology, natural and life sciences, agronomy, medicine, economics, management, law, humanities, social sciences, arts, and languages. Its academic programmes follow the principles of the Bologna Process.

Through its 17 accredited research laboratories, USMT conducts interdisciplinary research in engineering, biotechnology, environmental sciences, agronomy, social sciences, and the humanities. Innovation is supported by an integrated ecosystem comprising a Business Incubator, an Entrepreneurship Development Center (CDE), a Technology and Innovation Support Center (CATI), and a University Business Liaison Office (BLUE). Together, they support entrepreneurship, technology transfer, and collaboration with socio-economic partners.

International cooperation remains a strategic priority. USMT has developed partnerships with universities across Europe, Africa, and the Mediterranean. It actively participates in mobility, capacity-building, and collaborative research programmes. These initiatives strengthen academic exchange, encourage joint research, and welcome scholars, researchers, and students from around the world. Through continuous investment in education, research, and international cooperation, the University of Saïda Dr. Moulay Tahar continues to expand its academic profile and contribute to regional and international scientific collaboration.



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About Saïda

Saïda – The Happy City at the Crossroads of Knowledge

In the high plains of western Algeria, Saïda is a city whose name means *happy* (in Arabic) – a spirit reflected in its people and way of life. At the crossroads of Saharan and Mediterranean influences, this small city has long connected cultures, trade routes, and ideas. Today, it is emerging as a center for agricultural sciences, environmental research, technological innovation, and the study of North African history. Its surrounding steppes and Aleppo pine forests provide a natural laboratory for climate resilience, water management, and sustainable rural development.



Saïda Municipal Building, a listed Cultural Heritage Site

Known as the City of Mineral Waters, Saïda is home to renowned thermal baths and historic springs that have shaped its identity for generations. Life moves at a human pace. Distances are short. Encounters happen naturally. Pine-covered hills surround the city, while its culinary heritage blends pastoral traditions, Saharan flavors, and Mediterranean influences into an authentic gastronomic experience.

The city center reflects Saïda's character. Colonial-era architecture, and distinctive streets – somewhere between a small alley and a wide avenue – create an urban rhythm that is both intimate and open. Civic buildings and façades reveal layers of history and identity. Beyond the city, the landscapes of the Tell Atlas provide perspective and ecological depth, reinforcing the region's environmental significance.

Saïda's greatest asset is its scale. Its compact layout brings people together with ease. Conversations continue beyond meeting rooms, ideas circulate naturally, and partnerships develop in an environment shaped by hospitality and openness. Here, collaboration is not only productive – it is personal.



Saïda-Porte de la Redoute

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experience in hydrological modelling, machine learning, GIS, and water resources management, his work spans alpine hydrology in Austria and tropical water resources in East Africa. In Uganda and Kenya, his research addresses topics at the interface of land-use change, climate variability, and water resources governance, including water quality assessment, rainfall-runoff dynamics, and lake level rise. He has led over 40 projects, authored 50+ publications, and supervised 40+ theses.

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RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Contributed pioneering work in the field of Bio-organic ("Green") Electronics
- Discovered the semiconducting properties of H-bonded, natural dyes and pigments
- First worldwide demonstration of Edible Electronics

EDUCATION

Doctor Habilitatus Physical Chemistry, Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria 2026

Ph.D. Materials Engineering, Auburn University, Alabama, USA, 2006

B.S. Mechanical Engineering, University of Craiova, Romania, 1997

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor April 2020-present Johannes Kepler University, Linz, Austria, Institute of Physical Chemistry

Anthony Ishola

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Prof. Anthony Ishola is a highly accomplished and respected Chemist with a PhD and many years of experience in the field of Pharmaceutical Chemistry. He is currently the Head of Department, Pharmaceutical Sciences in the School of Pharmacy at the University of Namibia. Areas of expertise: Analysis & Quality of Pharmaceutical products, Drug discovery and Community engagement.

Charles Kaggwa

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I am the Dean of the School of Commercial Industrial Art and Design (SCIAD) at Nkumba University, located at Entebbe on the shores of lake Victoria, in Uganda. My career spans 28 years of service as a lecturer in 2 universities and 36 years as a painter, with a passion for batik art. I am a consultant in practice-led training including Vocational training and In-company training. My research interest in academia is oriented towards indigenous knowledge practices for product design. I am the officer in charge of coordinating Nkumba University International Relations activities, a position that carries the responsibility of supporting staff and student mobility programmes, coordinating inter-institutional research networking and promoting grant procurement initiatives.

Mary Therese Kaggwa

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Dr. Mary Therese Kaggwa is an experienced aquatic ecologist with 20 years of experience. I am a full-time Lecturer at Kyambogo University in Uganda, teaching in the Bachelor of Science program in Environmental Science, Technology, and Management. My expertise encompasses multidisciplinary research on lakes, rivers, and temporary water bodies. I also provide consultancy services in aquatic biodiversity, ecology, environmental and social impact assessments, audits, and climate adaptation finance. I hold a Doctoral degree from the University of Vienna, a Master of Science in Environmental Science from UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in the Netherlands, and a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and Aquaculture from Makerere University in Uganda. My extensive training empowers me to excel in a wide range of environmental research and consultancy roles, both regionally and internationally.

Henri Kalama

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Born in 1973 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Professor Kalama Akulez Henri is a distinguished painter, scholar, and Doctor of Fine Arts and Phenomenology of Art from the China Academy of Art. Since 2016, he has served as General Director of the Kinshasa Academy of Fine Arts. His artistic practice conceives art as a form of "metalanguage," revealing the inner truth of human existence through color, form, and abstraction. Deeply inspired by philosophical reflections on Being and Time, particularly those of Martin

Heidegger, his work explores the ethical and aesthetic dimensions of contemporary life. Professor Kalama Akulez Henri has authored numerous academic publications on art, culture, and arts education in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In May 2025, he published Abstraire, an autobiographical essay examining the profound relationship between aesthetics, ethics, and artistic creation.

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Dr. Gutema Imana Keno is an Associate Professor of Sociology and a senior academic staff member at Haramaya University, Ethiopia. He holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Klagenfurt, Austria, and MA and BA degrees in History from Addis Ababa University. He teaches and supervises students at postgraduate levels in the Department of Sociology and at the Institute of Peace and Development Studies. He has held several key administrative positions, including Head of the Department of History, Director of Development Works, Dean of Continuing and Distance Education, and Director of Gadaa Studies. He also represents Haramaya University in Africa-UniNet. His research focuses on sociocultural, political, and development issues, and he actively contributes to public discourse and initiatives promoting social cohesion.

Hussein Khalaf

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I am a Professor of Physical Chemistry specializing in surface chemistry, catalysis, photochemistry, and advanced materials. My research focuses on the synthesis and characterization of nanostructured catalysts for applications in energy and environmental systems. I am affiliated with the Faculty of Science, Damanhour University, Egypt, and serve as the DMU representative in Africa-UniNet. I actively contribute to scientific research and international academic collaboration.

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Nzula Kitaka is currently an associate professor and a researcher of Aquatic/Water Science at Egerton University, Kenya and the Vice President of Africa-UniNet. Trained as a water Scientists Prof Kitaka has been involved in several collaborative research projects and capacity development initiatives either as a PI, Team leader or Researcher. These projects/initiatives have provided an in-depth insight in translation of theoretical knowledge into practical approach to enhance research skills towards coping strategies of emerging issues (CC), wise use of aquatic systems and ecosystems services for livelihoods enhancement, particularly in tropical systems.

Philemon K. Kwaramba

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He holds the following qualifications: BSc MSc Agricultural Economics, PG Dip Agricultural Engineering Systems Analysis, C Dip AF (UK) and PhD Development Economics. He is a seasoned development practitioner, consultant and academic who has published widely; with over three decades of experience in cross-cutting engagements in agriculture, economics, agro-engineering environment, ecology, finance and policy matters. He has published widely on synergy between research and industry; research commercialisation and entrepreneurship evolution in agriculture. He has current and past membership of the following: Marketers Association of Zimbabwe (MAZ); Institute of Directors (IOD) Zimbabwe and Zimbabwe Economic Policy Research Institute (ZEPARI). He has pioneered empirical studies on AIDS Impact on Agriculture and Research-Industry Synergy generating policy insights on commercialization of innovations across Africa.

Olusola Abiola Ladokun

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Olusola Abiola LADOKUN is a Professor of Nutritional Biochemistry at Lead City University, Nigeria. She earned her PhD from the University of Ibadan in 2004 and has over 20 years of teaching, research, and postgraduate supervision experience. Her expertise includes nutritional biochemistry, nutraceuticals, functional foods, and ethnopharmacology. She has served as Dean, Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences, currently Deputy Vice Chancellor (Science and Technology), and a member of the Governing Council. A Full Professor since 2015, she has supervised 5 PhD graduates and currently supervises 4 PhD and 5 MSc students. Her research focuses on the development of yoghurt from plant-based milk types, medicinal plants, and polyphenol oxidase characterisation.

Margarita Langthaler

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Margarita Langthaler is a senior researcher at the Austrian Foundation for Development Research (ÖFSE). Her work focuses on global education policy and education policy in the Global South, development cooperation in the education sector, and vocational training in the context of development. Among other things, she has worked on North-South and South-South cooperation in higher education. Margarita Langthaler holds a doctorate in political science from the University of Vienna.

Julia Lichtkoppler

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Julia Lichtkoppler has worked for the Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development (APPEAR) since 2010. In that capacity she has implemented eleven APPEAR calls for funding, monitored various projects, revised the programme design and represented APPEAR in national and international events. Since 2019 Julia Lichtkoppler has been responsible for setting up the Austrian-African Research Network Africa-UniNet, which actively engages its member institutions in joint events and annual calls for funding. She furthermore has acted as a reviewer for similar European funding programmes. In September 2026, she was appointed Head of Sector Global Partnerships at OeAD.

Zena Mabeyo

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Zena Mnasi Mabeyo, PhD, is a Senior Lecturer and Deputy Rector, Planning, Finance and Administration at the Institute of Social Work, Dar es Salaam. She led 4 national studies, co-authored 3 books and contributed over 6 chapters in edited books and several journal papers focused on: social work and its role in poverty reduction; social protection for the marginalized populations, indigenous and innovative social work approaches. She chaired the Tanzania Association of Social Workers for ten years, represented East Africa in the African Association of Schools of Social Work and coordinated 3 international projects focused at promotion of social work in East Africa. She is a member of three local and one international board. Currently, she is a Board Member and country representative to the Africa-Austria University Network and coordinator of the Africa-UniNet-funded "Social Work and Sustainable Development Project."

Leonard Madzingaidzo

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Dr Leonard Madzingaidzo is the Chief Executive Officer of SIRDC. He previously worked for Dairy Marketing Board, Standards Association of Zimbabwe and Cairns Foods Limited. He has valuable expertise in Manufacturing, Quality Assurance, Research and Development, Technology Transfer, Commercialisation, and Management of Intellectual Property Assets. Dr Madzingaidzo holds a Bachelor of Technology (Hons) Biochemistry (1st Class) UZ 1992; and MSc in Biotechnology (Merit) UZ / Free University Amsterdam 1994, and PhD Biotechnology and Biochemical Technology (Summa Cum Laude) Vienna, Austria, 1999. He currently chairs the Advisory Board of the Korea Partnership for Innovation in Agriculture (KOPIA). A former board member of the Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ), Harare Institute of Technology (HIT), Trade Measures and Women's University in Africa (WUA), he is Country Representative for SIRDC/Zimbabwe for UNINET, KAFACI and WAITRO. He is a member of the Institute of Directors (IOD) Zimbabwe.

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PhD holder, Assistant Professor, and researcher in Geomatics at the University of Saïda Dr. Moulay Tahar, Algeria, I specialize in geodesy, topography, GIS, and remote sensing. My research focuses on geospatial technologies and satellite data for environmental monitoring and natural hazard assessment, with a particular interest in developing practical geospatial approaches that support environmental management and informed decision-making. Alongside my research and teaching activities, I have extensive experience in international academic cooperation and higher education. I also contribute to the management of international relations and Erasmus+ programmes at the University of Saïda, working on institutional partnerships, academic mobility, and international projects.

Mourad Meghachou

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Prof. Mourad Meghachou is Professor of Civil Engineering and Rector of Abou Bekr Belkaid University of Tlemcen, Algeria, since 2021. He holds an Engineering Degree in Civil Engineering, a DEA in Soil Mechanics from the Grenoble National Polytechnic Institute, and a PhD from Joseph Fourier University, Grenoble, France. He has supervised doctoral and master's research, led six national research projects, and authored numerous scientific publications. He previously served as Vice-Rector for Postgraduate Studies and Rector of Djillali Liabes University of Sidi Bel Abbas. His expertise covers civil engineering, geotechnics, higher education management and academic governance.

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Andreas Melcher, Senior Scientist (Ecosystem Management) at BOKU University, Institute of Development Research, Cluster of Development Director, Africa-UniNet Initiator and BOKU Coordinator, Agrinatura Representative, and UNAI SDG Hub Co-Chair. Partner in 10 Africa-UniNet projects. Through robust networks and core institutional structures, he has sustainably strengthened development research in Austria, shaping the community and exemplifying Third-Mission engagement. As a mentor and multiplier, he has influenced a generation across many countries. His leadership in Africa-UniNet (founded 2020) and in many other projects has boosted SDG visibility and implementation; his networking and scientific impact (h-index 30) is undisputed.

Daniel Mengistu

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Dr. Daniel Ayalew Mengistu is Associate Professor at Bahir Dar University and Director of the Geospatial Data & Technology Center. He holds a B.Ed., MA and PGD in Geography & Environmental Studies, and a Ph.D. in Environment & Natural Resource Management (2015). He completed advanced training in GIS, remote sensing, climate modeling, and sustainable development at TU Berlin, ICTP Trieste, University of Bern, and University of Twente, with expertise in drone operations, Google Earth Engine, and Python. He is also the Project Director of the Ethiopian Education Network Support for Agricultural Transformation (EENSAT) in collaboration with the University of Twente. He has published over 40 peer-reviewed articles on land use change, climate, water resources, environmental management and sustainability in Ethiopia and the broader region. His research actively informs policy and sustainable development practices. He has secured major grants and consultancy projects (DAAD, World Bank, EU, USAID, NUFFIC, IFS, AfricaUniNet), and actively advances geospatial science, policy, and capacity building in Ethiopia.

Jane Misihairabgwi

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Professor Jane Misihairabgwi, the Acting Associate Dean of the School of Medicine at the University of Namibia (UNAM), is the Country and Institutional Representative for Africa-UniNet. She holds a PhD in Biochemistry and has over 20 years of experience in Health Sciences education, research, and academic leadership. Her expertise spans nutritional health and toxicology, curriculum development, and medical education. She has served on numerous national and continental committees advancing health professions education. Professor Misihairabgwi is committed to strengthening health systems through innovative teaching, research and strategic partnerships.

Abdulkarim Sabo Mohammed

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Professor Abdulkarim Sabo Mohammed obtained his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Enzyme and Food Biotechnology from Universiti Putra Malaysia in 2006. An Associate Professor at Universiti Putra Malaysia (2006 – 2017) and now a Professor of Enzyme and Food Biotechnology at the department of Microbiology and Biotechnology Federal University Dutse, Jigawa State Nigeria. His area of expertise is enzymatic modification of Fats and oils for improved functionality, Metabolic engineering of functional food additives and nutritional changes in foods. He is the immediate past Vice-Chancellor Federal University Dutse (2021-2026). His academic career spun over 30 years with vast experience in Research and Teaching at the university and has authored over 120 publications in international journals, book chapters and international conference proceedings.

Heidrun Mörtl

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Heidi Moertl is the Deputy Head of the Excellence Development and Internationalization unit at the Medical University of Graz, Austria. From 2018-2026 she was the Director of the International Office at the same university. She has been working in both academic as well as administrative functions in Higher Education since 2008 and is currently involved in the internationalization portfolio and the global footprint of Med Uni Graz. With over a decade of experience in academia she works on the development and implementation of the internationalization agenda and is actively engaged in the acquisition and support of new and ongoing partnerships. She takes an innovative and solution-oriented approach to international education management at the university and is driven to facilitate opportunities for students, researchers and staff. She has been involved as presenter in workshops and conferences all over the world and has spent extensive amount abroad in the USA. Her educational background is in the humanities. Within the Africa-UniNet she sees herself as a facilitator in the health field (life sciences, medicine, etc.) and is looking forward to the engagement.

Sandra Muehlboeck

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Dr. Sandra Mühlböck is a distinguished expert in Industrial Business Administration and Management Accounting. Since 2016, she has served as a Professor at the University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria, where she currently holds the positions of Vice Dean for Teaching and Head of Department for Business Administration and Quality Management.

Baerbel Mueller

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Baerbel Mueller is an architect, researcher, and curator based in Austria and Ghana whose practice explores contextual approaches to architecture and urbanism. She is Associate Professor at the Institute of Architecture at the University of Applied Arts Vienna and served as Dean from 2021–2025. She heads [Applied] Foreign Affairs, a lab investigating spatial, environmental, and cultural phenomena in Sub-Saharan Africa, and runs nav_s baerbel mueller, her studio focused on projects across the continent. Her work spans architecture, research, and exhibitions internationally. For over two decades, she has developed research-driven projects across Sub-Saharan Africa in close collaboration with local partners.

Patrick Musinguzi

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Dr Patrick Musinguzi is a Senior Lecturer and Researcher in Soil Science and Agronomy in the Department of Soil Science and Land Use Management at Makerere University. He holds a PhD in Agriculture (Soil Science). His research focuses on soil organic carbon dynamics, nutrient cycling, agronomy, and sustainable land use amidst climate change. He is currently the Country Representative of the Africa-UniNet (Uganda) and a coordinator at Makerere University. He is the Chairperson of the Soil Science Society of East Africa (Uganda) and coordinates the African Network on Sustainable Land and Water Use. Dr Musinguzi is a Principal Investigator on APPEAR Projects on Green Growth. His other research works focus on soil health monitoring, crop modelling, and climate change adaptation.

Benedict Mwavu Mutua

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Prof. Dr.-Ing. Benedict M. Mutua is a Professor of Water Resources and Hydraulics Engineering and currently serves as Vice-Chancellor of the Technical University of Kenya. He has extensive leadership experience at national, regional, and international levels in higher education. A distinguished researcher, he has secured numerous research, innovation, and consultancy grants, published widely in refereed journals, books, and book chapters, and supervised and mentored many students. He has received international recognition for his research contributions and serves on several scientific committees globally. His expertise spans water resources engineering, hydraulics, hydrology, climate change, flood and drought forecasting, and environmental engineering. His work has significantly impacted communities through research, innovation, and consultancy, while reflecting strong values of integrity, innovation, inclusivity, mentorship, and academic excellence.

Marifa Mwakumanya

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Prof. Marifa Ali Mwakumanya is an environmental scientist based at Pwani University in Kenya, where he is an Associate Professor of Environmental Sciences and Director of Quality Assurance. His expertise lies in geoinformatics and remote sensing in monitoring and management of coastal processes, marine ecosystem conservation, and climate change. His areas of research focus on Shoreline instability and climate change, mangrove habitat restoration, and carbon sequestration in the marine environments. Prof. Mwakumanya is a certified expert in environmental and social impact assessments. He is also engaged in education for sustainable development activities to promote sustainability principles, values and practices at the community, national and global levels.

Francis Mwilafi

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Francis Samwel Mwilafi is an education administrator, legal scholar, and academic researcher with multidisciplinary training in education, law, philosophy, and theology. He holds a Master of Education in Planning and Administration (MEPA), a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Trade and Finance Law, a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE), a Bachelor of Laws (LLB), and a Diploma in Philosophy and Theology. He is currently a PhD Candidate researching Private School Management Systems: Challenges and Opportunities in the Iringa Region. Since 2011, he has served as Director of St. James Kilolo Secondary School. He currently works with the Tanzania Episcopal Conference at Ruaha Catholic University (RUCU) as International Relations, Protocol and Fundraising Officer.

Bola Oboh

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I am a Professor of Genetics at the University of Lagos and served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics & Research) until March 2026, overseeing academic administration, curriculum design, and research governance. I direct the TETFund Centre of Excellence for Biodiversity Conservation & Ecosystem Management. My academic path spans a B.Sc. in Biology, M.Sc. in Plant Science, and Ph.D. in Plant Breeding & Quantitative Genetics. I have mentored over 150 undergraduates and published 75+ papers with 1,000+ citations. My research advances biodiversity, underutilized crops, and climate change resilience. Through grants and national initiatives, I remain committed to strengthening genetics and higher education.

Andreas Obrecht

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Andreas J. Obrecht is a sociologist, a social and cultural anthropologist and a writer. He was an assistant professor at the Institute of Sociology, University of Vienna (1988–1993); was the head of the Interdisciplinary Research Institute for Development Cooperation (IEZ), Johannes Kepler University Linz (1998–2009); was a visiting professor for the thematic focus Sub-Saharan Africa and South Pacific at the Department for Contemporary History, Karl Franzens University Graz (1998–2013); has been since 2004 the host of cultural and scientific programs at the Austrian Broadcasting Cooperation (ORF); and has been since 2009 the head of the section “Science and Research for Development Cooperation” at Austria’s Agency for Education and Internationalisation (OeAD), currently responsible for following programs: APPEAR, Africa-UniNet, and Cooperation Development.

Deborah O. Odejimi

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Professor Deborah Omotsefe Odejimi is a distinguished academic, researcher, and higher education administrator with over three decades of experience in teaching, research, and university leadership. She is a Professor of Economic Development and Finance at Igbinedion University, Okada, Nigeria. Her academic training is multidisciplinary, encompassing Business Administration, Economics & Statistics and Finance at both master’s and doctoral levels reflecting a strong interdisciplinary foundation that supports her contributions to economic policy, development planning, and higher education management. She has taught extensively at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and has supervised numerous research projects, dissertations, and doctoral theses.

Allassane Ouattara

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OUATTARA Allassane is Professor at Nangui Abrogoua University in Côte d'Ivoire. Over the last 25 years, he has conducted research on freshwater ecosystems (lakes, rivers), lagoons and marine ecology in West Africa in relationship with different pressures (pollution, habitat degradation, overfishing, ...) while deepening his knowledge on West Africa fish and algae biodiversity. Recently he focuses his interest on environmental DNA approach to study aquatic biodiversity. Currently, he is the Head of Aquaculture and Fisheries centre in Nangui Abrogoua University and also leads the Laboratory of Environment and Aquatic Ecology.

Oscar Kambona Ouma

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Prof. Kambona is an associate Professor of Eco and Sustainable Tourism in the Department of Ecotourism, Hotel and Institution Management of Maseno University, Kenya. He holds a PhD in Natural Science (Geography) from the University of Salzburg, Austria. His area of research concentration is on protected areas with respect to Tourism, Conservation and Rural livelihoods. He has widely published in the area of Sustainable tourism, Ecotourism and Hospitality with over 45 papers and book chapters. He is an Ernst Match Post-Doc research fellow, University of Salzburg, Austria. Prof. Kambona is a founding member of the Africa-UniNet and currently represents Maseno University to the network. He is an Internationally Certified Green flag trails auditor and an International board member of the World Trails Network. He is also a member (2026-2029) of the IUCN-Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group (TAPAS).

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June-Rose has 25 years of work experience in higher education, government, research management and funding environment, in post school education and training in South African and European sector. She is responsible for facilitating international agreements between the University of Pretoria and European universities. She is also a Coordinator of the Erasmus+ Programme, as well as a number of international networks, including Worldwide Universities Network.

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I am a Professor at the University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria, Campus Wels, and the Programme Director of the bachelor programme Agricultural Technology and Management. In my academic leadership roles, including my work as Deputy Head of the University, I focus on fostering strong teamwork, supporting talent development, and promoting the next generation of academics and professionals. Inclusion, diversity and sustainability are central themes that shape both my teaching and my contributions to institutional development.

Andreas Rauber

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Andreas Rauber is Professor at the Data Science Research Unit (DS-IFS) at the Department of Information Systems Engineering (ISE) at the Technische Universität Wien (TU Wien) and Head of the Austrian Scientific Computing Research Center (ASC) operating the national High-Performance Computing infrastructure. His research interests cover the broad scope of data science, ranging from data management, via reproducibility aspects in data analytics processes, their realization in virtual research environments and high-performance compute infrastructures to aspects of explainability and accountability in machine learning models.

Courage Kosi Setsoafia Saba

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Professor Courage Kosi Setsoafia Saba is a distinguished academic, researcher, innovator, inventor and entrepreneur who has spent over two decades working in academia. He is a Professor of Microbiology with focus on the One Health Approach to solving the menace of Antimicrobial Resistance and the Director of International Relations and Advancement of the University for Development Studies (UDS), Tamale, Ghana. He holds a BSc in Agriculture Technology from UDS and MSc and PhD from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain. His flair for teaching, research, innovation and collaboration can be felt locally and internationally through his interdisciplinary activities which was born out of his love for general knowledge. He serves on the Experts roster for the WHO/FAO Joint Committee Meeting on Microbiological Risk

Assessment of Food (JEMRA) 2018 to 2027. He is currently the Country Representative of the Africa-UniNet in Ghana.

Djamal Saidi

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Djamal Saidi is Emeritus Professor of Physiology and Director of the Higher School of Biological Sciences of Oran, Algeria. A university professor since 2002, he has extensive experience in higher education, biomedical research and leadership. His research focuses on intestinal physiology and immunology, nutrition, milk proteins, food allergy, lactic acid bacteria, probiotics and food safety. He has led projects on intestinal function, immune responses, camel milk, hypoallergenic nutrition and antiinflammatory nutraceuticals. A founding member of a nutrition physiology and food safety laboratory, he has supervised many Ph.D. theses and graduate projects. His work links clinical observation, experimental models and food biotechnology, with particular attention to reducing food allergenicity.

Kwabena Sarfo Sarfo-Kantankah

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A representative of University of Cape Coast (UCC) for Africa-UniNet, Prof. Kwabena Sarfo Sarfo-Kantankah is Professor of English Language at the University of Cape Coast, where he teaches and mentors undergraduate and postgraduate students. He holds a PhD from The University of Leeds and additional qualifications in governance and law. A former Head of Department and Vice-Dean, he is currently the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, UCC, Ghana. His research focuses on corpus linguistics, discourse studies and political/parliamentary discourse in Ghana and the UK. In 2025, he was a visiting scholar in Germany and Austria, facilitating an MoU between UCC and WU Vienna.

Annette Ida Schatzmann

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A trained philologist and linguist, Annette Schatzmann has been working in international contexts in public and private Institutions in the field of education for the past 25 years in France and Austria. She is coordinating the agenda of the FH Salzburg International Office since 2021.

Eva Schulev-Steindl

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Eva Schulev-Steindl has been Rector of BOKU University since February 2022, having previously served as Professor of Law there from 2008 to 2014. She studied business administration at WU Vienna and law at the University of Vienna and the London School of Economics. Following her habilitation in Public Law in 2003, she held professorships at WU Vienna, the University of Klagenfurt, BOKU, and the University of Graz, where she was also Vice Dean of the Faculty of Law (2019–2021). Her research focuses on climate protection law; she co-founded Austria's Climate Protection Law Working Group of CCCA and established the ClimLaw: Graz research center in 2020. She also served on the board of AQ Austria from 2005 to 2022.

Sassi Sofiane

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Pr. Sofiane Sasi is a Full Professor of Sociology and Vice-Rector for External Relations at Chadli Bendjedid University of El Tarf, Algeria. He holds a Doctorate in Science in Sociology from Badji Mokhtar Annaba University (2013). His academic and research expertise focuses on cultural sociology, social transformations, development, and the intersection of artificial intelligence and society. He has authored numerous scientific articles and books addressing social issues, higher education reform, and local development. Prof. Sasi is actively involved in international academic networking, institutional partnerships, and collaborative research projects aimed at strengthening higher education and regional development.

Ayodele Soge

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Dr. Ayodele Soge obtained BSc and PhD in Physics at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He also holds an MPhil in Electrical and Electronic Power Engineering from the University of Leicester, United Kingdom. His research is focused on development of low-cost and environmentally-friendly solar cells. He was a co-investigator in the completed Africa-UniNet_P091_Nigeria project entitled "Fabrication and Characterization of Dye-sensitized Solar Cells using Locally Sourced Natural Dyes and Synthetic Organic Dyes as Photosensitizers" in

collaboration with the Linz Institute for Organic Solar Cells at the Johannes Kepler University in Linz, Austria. He is presently a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Physical Sciences, Redeemer's University, Nigeria.

David Sseviiri

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I am an Associate Professor of Mathematics working in Algebra at Makerere University. I was elected Dean School of Physical Sciences in January 2026. Served as Head of Department of Mathematics at Makerere University for 4 years, supervised 6 PhD students and 17 MSc Students to completion. I have over 20 publications in peer reviewed international journals. I obtained my PhD about 13 years back at the Nelson Mandela University in South Africa. I have organised several workshops in Mathematics both in Uganda and outside Uganda. I have mobilised resources to a tune of more than UGX 4 billion.

Klaus Steinbauer

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I am Klaus Steinbauer, born in Linz, Austria, and currently residing in Klagenfurt, Austria. I hold a PhD in Biology and am employed as a Senior Scientist at Carinthia University of Applied Sciences. My work focuses on biodiversity research with a special interest in long-term monitoring. I intend to travel to Algeria from 26 September to 1 October 2026 to attend the 4th General Assembly within the Africa-UniNet framework, in connection with my involvement in an ongoing collaborative project.

Christof Sumereder

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