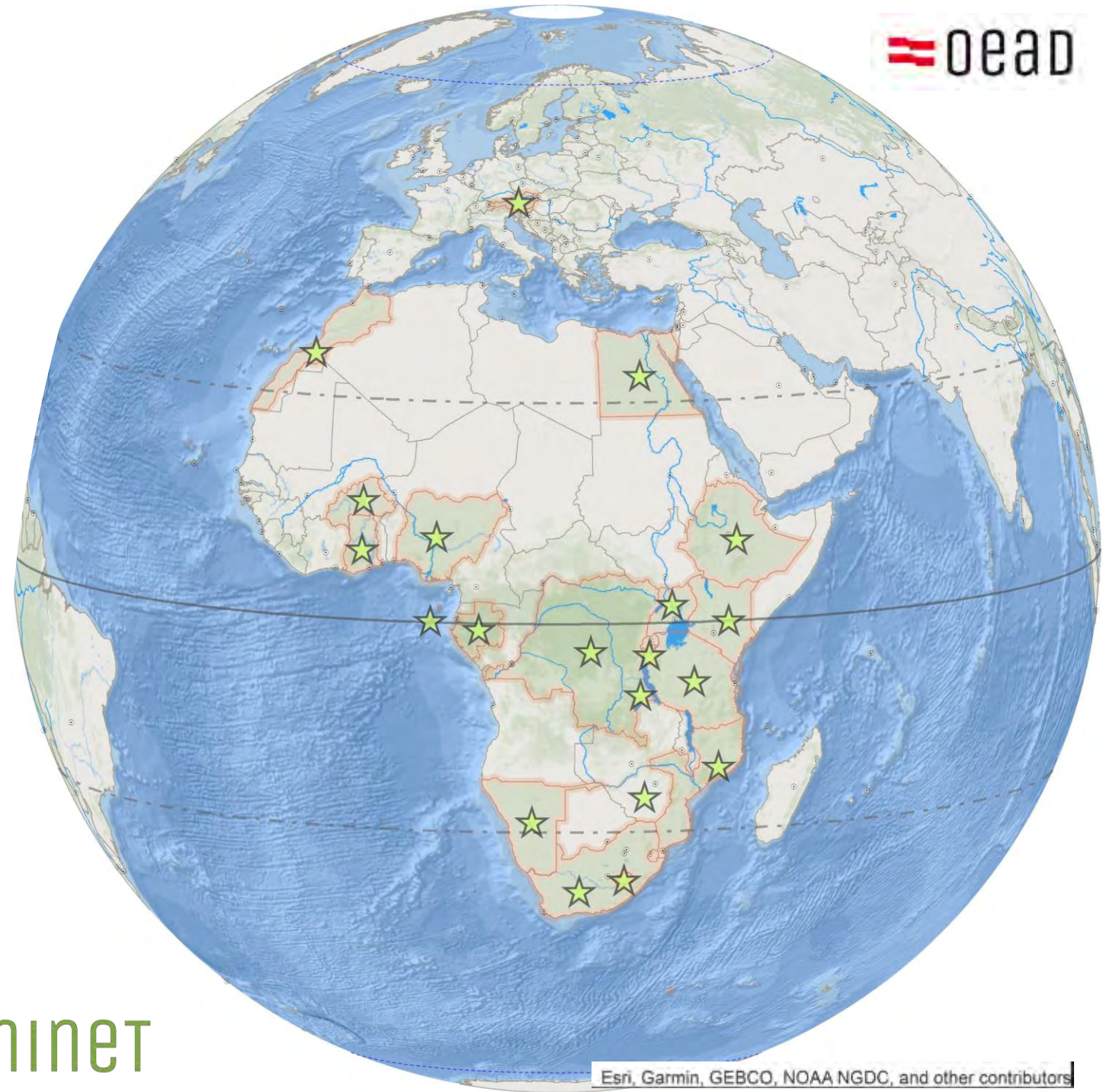


Introduction

Welcome!

to the 2nd Africa-UniNet General Assembly and Erasmus+ Cooperation Seminar



Participants

- More than 130 participants from more than 75 different higher education and research institutions in 20 different countries have registered

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

Thank you!

- Our sincere thanks go to Vice Chancellor Isaac O. Kibwage, Acting DVC APD, Richard Mulwa and Former Acting DVC R & E Bockline O. Bebe, to Prof. Nzula Kitaka, Priscilla Muriithi and the whole organising committee at Egerton University for hosting the Africa-UniNet General Assembly and the Erasmus+ Cooperation Seminar and for their tireless support in organising this event.



Agenda

13:15 – 15:15 **Africa-UniNet | Introductory session**

Introduction of Africa-UniNet representatives

Overview and status quo

Africa-UniNet project presentations

Tour of poster presentations with authors present at posters

15:15 – 16:00 **Coffee break**

Introduction of Africa-UniNet Representatives

Burkina Faso

- Université de Ouahigouya



Burundi

- Hope Africa University



DR Congo

- Université Catholique de Bukavu



Egypt

- South Valley University
- Suez University



Ethiopia

- Addis Ababa Science and Technology University
- Bahir Dar University
- Debre Markos University
- Debre Tabor University
- Haramaya University



Gabon

- Centre de Recherches Médicales de Lambaréné (CERMEL)



Ghana

- University for Development Studies
- University of Ghana



Kenya

- African Centre for Technology Studies
- Egerton University
- Kibabii University
- Laikipia University
- Maseno University
- Technical University of Kenya
- Turkana University College (pending)



Lesotho

- National University of Lesotho



Morocco

- Cadi Ayyad University



Mozambique

- Universidade Zambeze



Namibia

- University of Namibia



Nigeria

- Babcock University
- Federal University Dutse
- Godfrey Okoye University
- Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Akwa
- Redeemer's University
- University of Abuja
- University of Lagos
- Usmanu Danfodiyo University



São Tomé and Príncipe

- Universidade de São Tomé e Príncipe



South Africa

- Cape Peninsula University of Technology
- University of Pretoria



Tanzania

- Institute of Social Work




Uganda








- African Rural University
- Busitema University
- Gulu University
- Kabale University
- Kyambogo University
- Makerere University
- Nkumba University

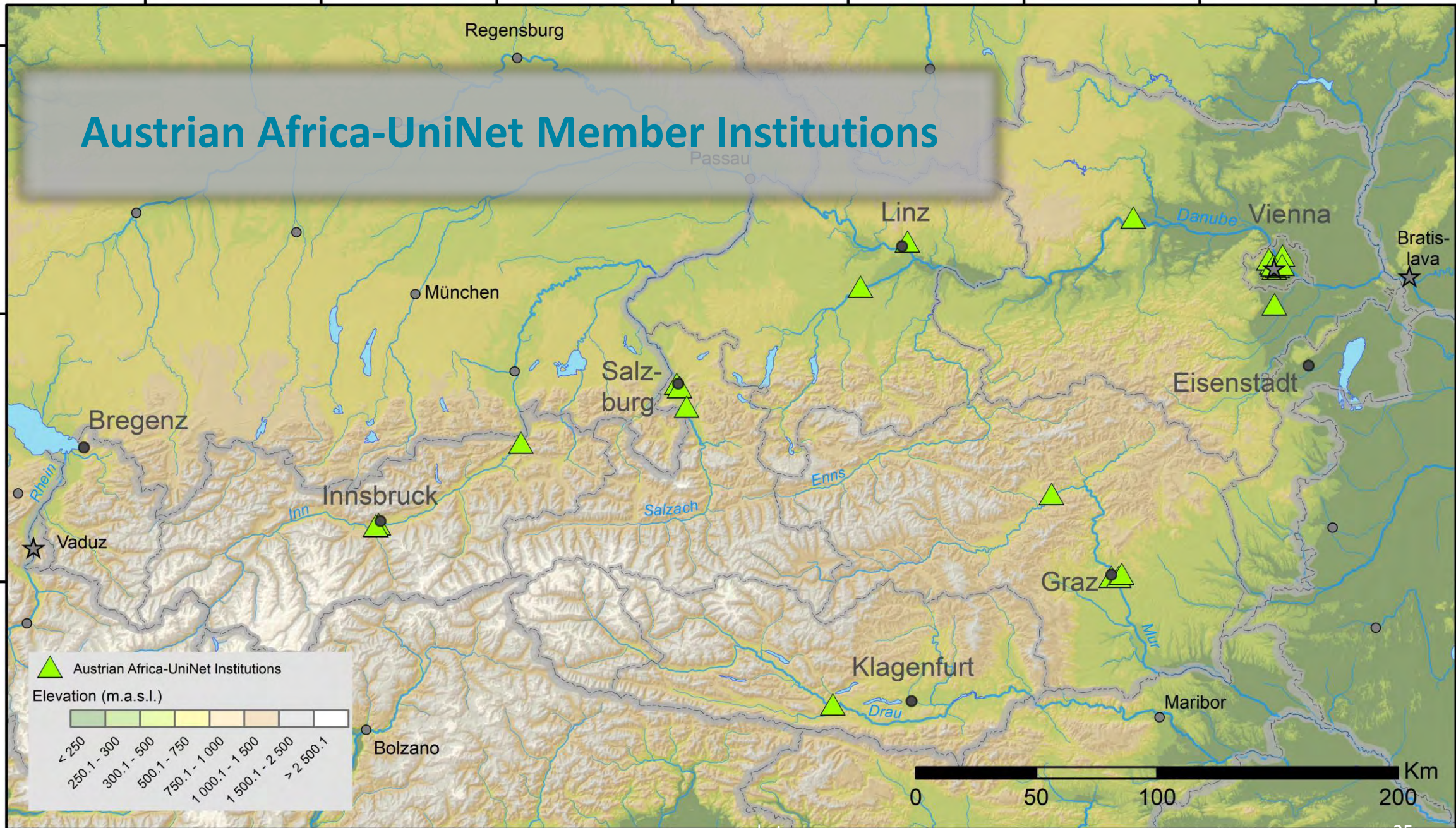


Austrian Africa-UniNet Member Institutions

 Austrian Africa-UniNet Institutions

Elevation (m.a.s.l.)

						
< 250	250.1 - 300	300.1 - 500	500.1 - 750	750.1 - 1 000	1 000.1 - 1 500	1 500.1 - 2 500



Austria

- Academy of Fine Arts Vienna
- Carinthia University of Applied Sciences
- FH Joanneum University of Applied Sciences
- FH Kufstein Tirol University of Applied Sciences
- Graz University of Technology
- IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems
- International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis



Austria

- Johannes Kepler University Linz
- MCI Management Center Innsbruck
- Medical University of Graz
- Medical University of Innsbruck
- Medical University of Vienna
- Montanuniversität Leoben
- Paracelsus Medizinische Privatuniversität Salzburg - Privatstiftung



Austria

- Paris Lodron University of Salzburg
- Salzburg University of Applied Sciences
- University for Continuing Education
- University of Applied Arts Vienna
- University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria
- University of Innsbruck
- University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna



Austria

- University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna
- University of Vienna
- Vienna University of Economics and Business



New membership applications:

- Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW)
- Austrian Foundation for Development Research (ÖFSE)

Africa-UniNet Overview and Status Quo

Africa-UniNet General Assembly



1st General Assembly, January 2020 in Vienna © Christof Gruber



Objectives of Africa-UniNet

- create a long-term, stable basis for cooperation between Austrian and African universities and research institutions
- promote new contacts, deepen scientific cooperation and provide excellent opportunities for innovative joint research projects
- funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF)
- www.africa-uninet.at

Goals and tasks

According to the network statutes...

- Creating a platform for long-term science discourses, promoting cooperation between academic institutions in Austria and countries in Africa
- Initiating and financing research projects and research & education projects based on common interests – that contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Networking events by member institutions and among member institutions
- Establishing contacts with and tapping third-party funds
- Providing expertise on the higher education and research landscape in Austria and Africa

Structur and working mode of Africa-UniNet

General Assembly

- New member institutions
- Projects to be funded
- Working programme and strategies

Board and Presidency

- Strategic development
- Preparing decisions of the GA

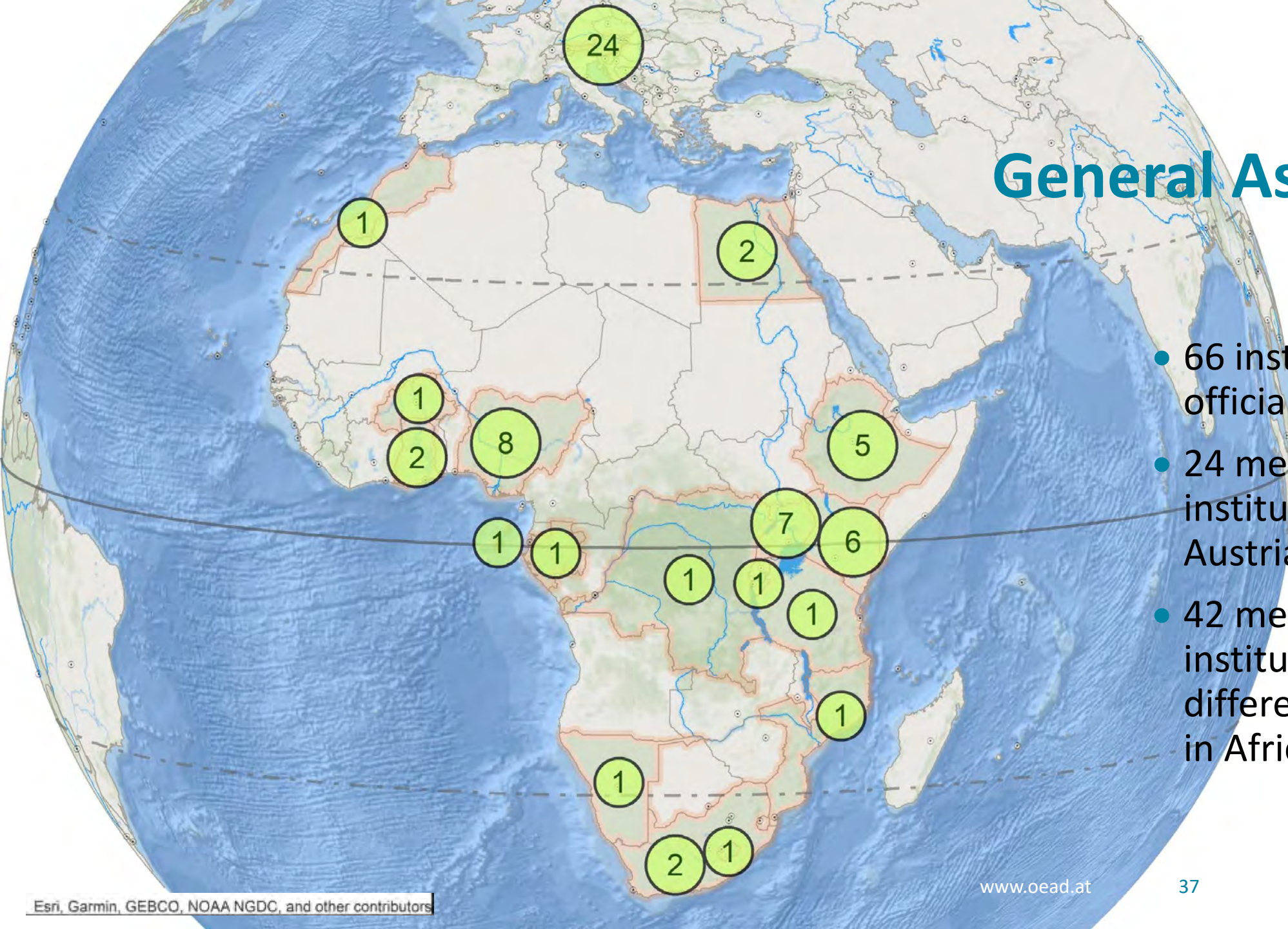
Africa-UniNet Office

- Preparing activities and implementing calls
- Communication and support

Africa-UniNet Board

- Univ.-Prof. Hubert Hasenauer (BOKU, Vienna, Austria), President
- Prof. Nzula Kitaka (Egerton University, Kenya), Vice-President
- Dr. Zena M. Mabeyo (Institute of Social Work, Tanzania)
- Prof. Christian Anieke (Godfrey Okoye University, Nigeria)
- Prof. Dr. Belachew Gebrewold (Management Center Innsbruck, Austria)
- Univ.-Prof. Dr. Anke Bockreis (University of Innsbruck, Austria)

General Assembly



- 66 institutions are official members
- 24 member institutions in Austria
- 42 member institutions in 17 different countries in Africa

Activities

- General Assembly > online resolutions, email
- 7 Online Board Meetings
- Website as a communication platform for announcing news, activities, calls for funding
- Online events by and with Africa-UniNet member institutions
- 2 Africa-UniNet calls for funding, 3rd one open
- 40 ongoing Africa-UniNet projects
- Library cooperation with Addis Ababa University (Belachew Gebrewold)



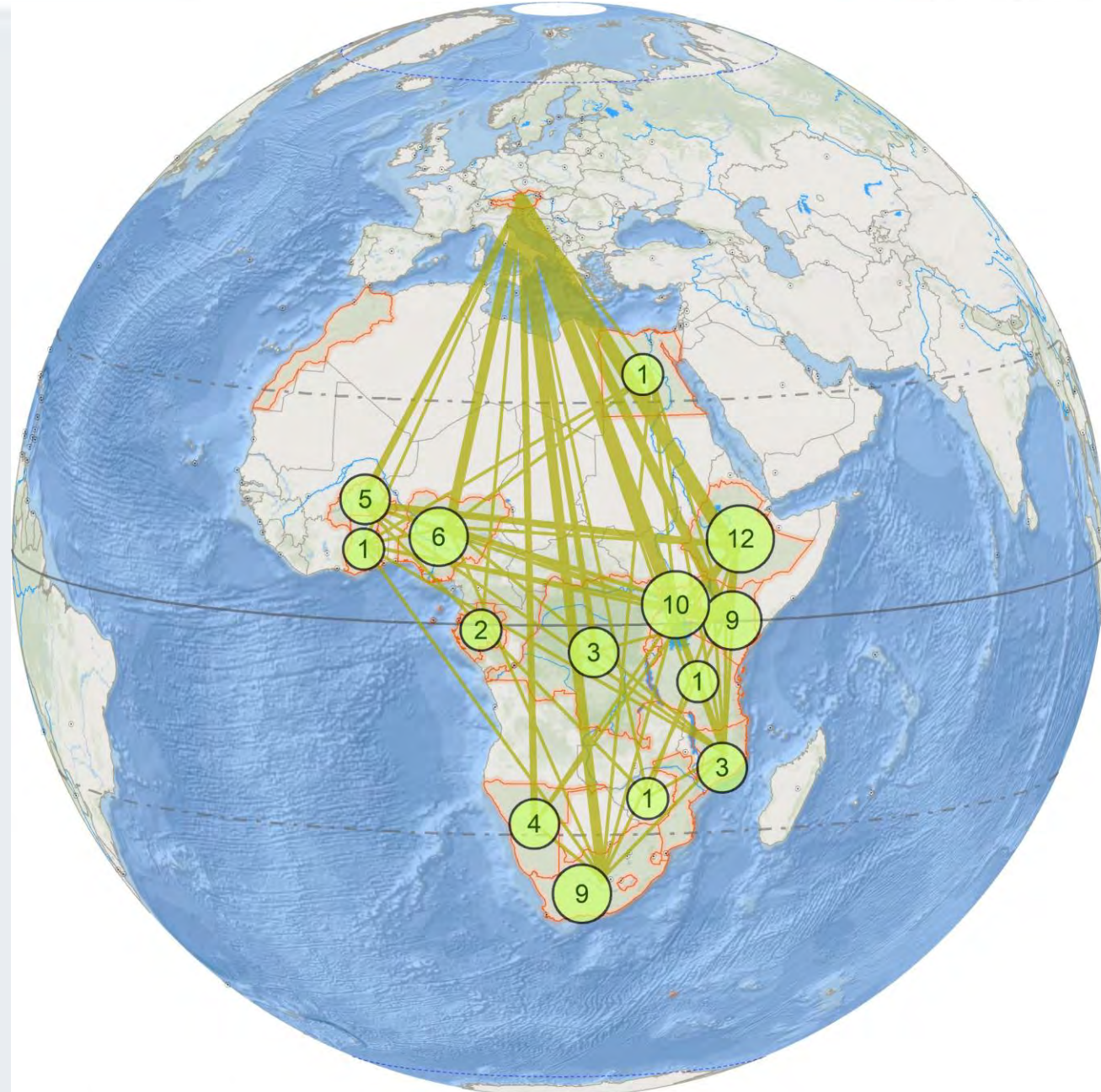
© Belachew Gebrewold

Africa-UniNet projects | Call 1 + 2

- 40 international cooperation projects between Austrian and African member institutions
- Total funding amount almost 1,000,000 euros, financed by the BMBWF
- Partnerships with institutions in 14 countries in Africa: Burkina Faso, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe
- 24 projects coordinated by an African member institution, 16 by Austrian member institutions
- Duration: 1 or 2 years
- <https://africa-uninet.at/en/projects>

Africa-UniNet | the network

Countries	Projects
Burkina Faso	5
DR Congo	3
Egypt	1
Ethiopia	12
Gabon	2
Ghana	1
Kenya	9
Mozambique	3
Namibia	4
Nigeria	6
South Africa	9
Tanzania	1
Uganda	10
Zimbabwe	1



Network and projects per country
Member countries as of 19.09.22 (Background)

Contribution to the SDGs

- All SDGs mentioned, multiple references possible
- Gender equality (22x)
- Partnerships for the Goals (20x)
- Good health and wellbeing (18x)
- Quality education (17x)
- No poverty (13x)
- Zero hunger (12x)
- Climate action and Responsible consumption and production (11x)



Source: SDGs

3rd Africa-UniNet call

- Open from 1 September 2022 – 30 November 2022
- All active member institutions are eligible to participate
- International research cooperations
- Mobility costs, equipment
- Duration: 1-2 years

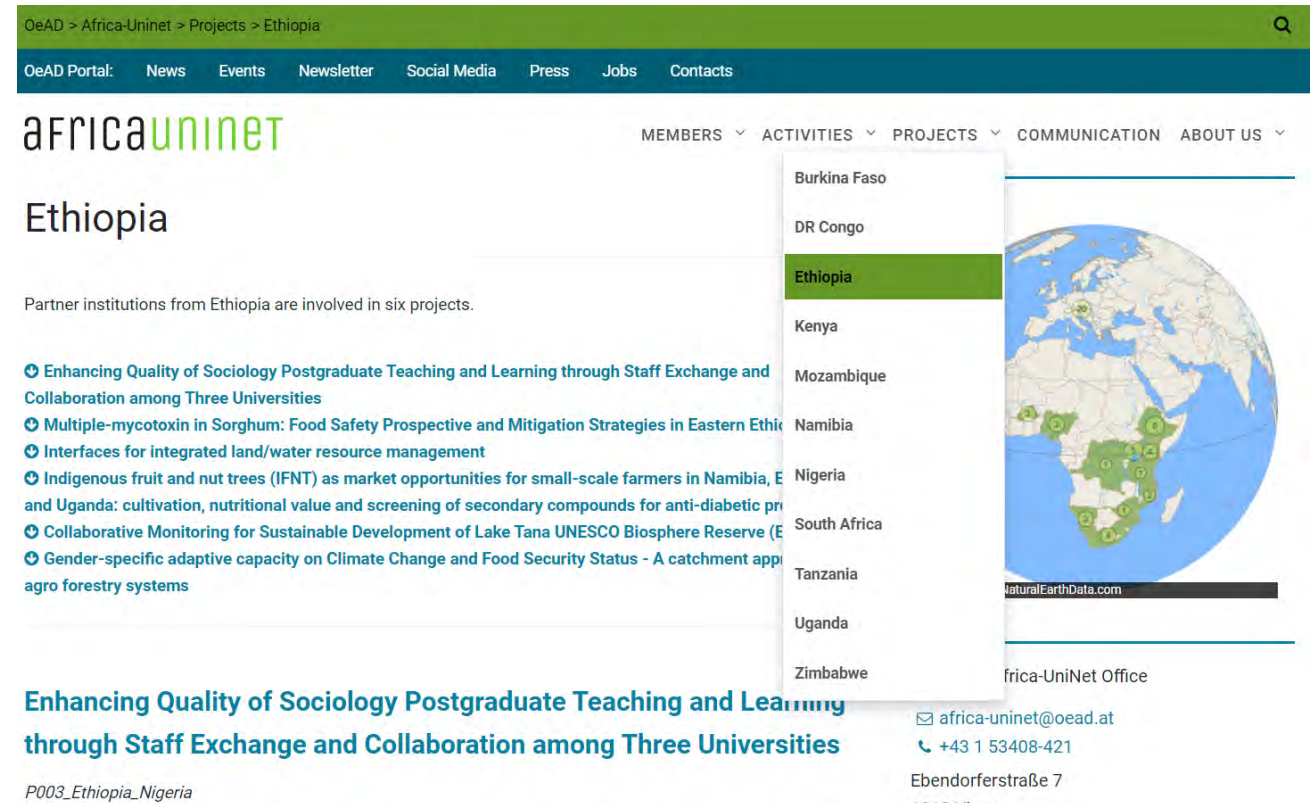


Network and projects per country
Member countries as of 19.09.22 (Background)

Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Africa-UniNet projects

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



OeAD > Africa-Uninet > Projects > Ethiopia

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Ethiopia

Partner institutions from Ethiopia are involved in six projects.

- Enhancing Quality of Sociology Postgraduate Teaching and Learning through Staff Exchange and Collaboration among Three Universities
- Multiple-mycotoxin in Sorghum: Food Safety Prospective and Mitigation Strategies in Eastern Ethiopia
- Interfaces for integrated land/water resource management
- Indigenous fruit and nut trees (IFNT) as market opportunities for small-scale farmers in Namibia, E
- and Uganda: cultivation, nutritional value and screening of secondary compounds for anti-diabetic pr
- Collaborative Monitoring for Sustainable Development of Lake Tana UNESCO Biosphere Reserve (E
- Gender-specific adaptive capacity on Climate Change and Food Security Status - A catchment app
- agro forestry systems

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

P003_Ethiopia_Nigeria

Burkina Faso
DR Congo
Ethiopia
Kenya
Mozambique
Namibia
Nigeria
South Africa
Tanzania
Uganda
Zimbabwe

NaturalEarthData.com

africa-UniNet Office
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Ebendorferstraße 7
1030 Vienna

Africa-UniNet project presentations

The Phosphorus Negotiation Game – SDGs in Action

- Liliya Satalkina, Danube University Krems
- Jane Mishairabgwi, University of Namibia
- Mary Kaggwa, Kyambogo University

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P006_Namibia_Uganda

The Phosphorus Negotiation Game – SDGs in Action



© Patrick_Wall_CIMMYT

Cooperating countries: Namibia, Uganda and Austria

Coordinating institution: Danube University Krems, Dr. Nils Haneklaus, ✉ nils.haneklaus@donau-uni.ac.at

Partner institutions: University of Namibia, Kyambogo University (Uganda)

Project duration: 1 June 2021 - 31 May 2023

Abstract:

Researchers from MIT in the US developed the “Mercury Game” at the beginning of the 2000s. In their own words “The Mercury Game is a negotiation simulation designed to teach people about the role of science in international environmental policy making”. The development of the game was a success and it is now, among many things, a fixed part of the Harvard Law Schools Program on Negotiation. DUK is actively working on sustainable phosphate rock production. Some phosphate rocks contain considerable amounts of accompanying toxic (e.g. cadmium) or radiotoxic (e.g. uranium) elements. Uranium concentrations in phosphate rocks can exceed concentrations found in traditional uranium mines. Whether or not uranium should be recovered from phosphates is actively discussed in the scientific community. Recovering uranium can:



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1010 Vienna



**University for Continuing Education
Krems.**

The Phosphorus Negotiation Game – SDGs in Action (P-GAME)

How does the “P-Game” change students’ knowledge and perspectives on mineral fertilizer production and use?



*Africa-UniNet 2nd General Assembly | Erasmus+ Cooperation Seminar
17-19 October 2022
Egerton University, Kenya*

Project overview

★ **Project title**

- ♣ The Phosphorus Negotiation Game – SDGs in Action (P-GAME)

★ **Coordinator and partner Institutions**

- ♣ University for Continuing Education Krems (Project coordinator - Dr. Nils Haneklaus; Dr. Liliya Sataalkina)
- ♣ University of Namibia (Prof. Jane Misihairabgwi)
- ♣ Kyambogo University (Dr. Mary Nakabungo Kaggwa)

★ **Project details**

- ♣ Call: Africa-UniNet Research Cooperation Project (1st Call 2020)

♣ Duration 24 months

Problem and issues investigated

How science and policy interact in environmental and social studies

★ **Environmental negotiations and decision-making**

- ♣ “Mercury Game” (Massachusetts Institute of Technol, MIT in 2000), i.e. a negotiation simulation designed to teach people about the role of science in international environmental policy making
- ♣ “Chlorine Game” (MIT, 2001)
- ♣ **P-game** - Negotiation simulations that include more facets (e.g., food security considerations)

★ **Prerequisites for the development of the game**

- ♣ No substitute for phosphate rock in fertilizer production today
- ♣ Importance for environmental regulations related to phosphate rock processing and fertilizer production
- ♣ Africa is the most important continent (phosphate rock deposits in Namibia and Uganda)

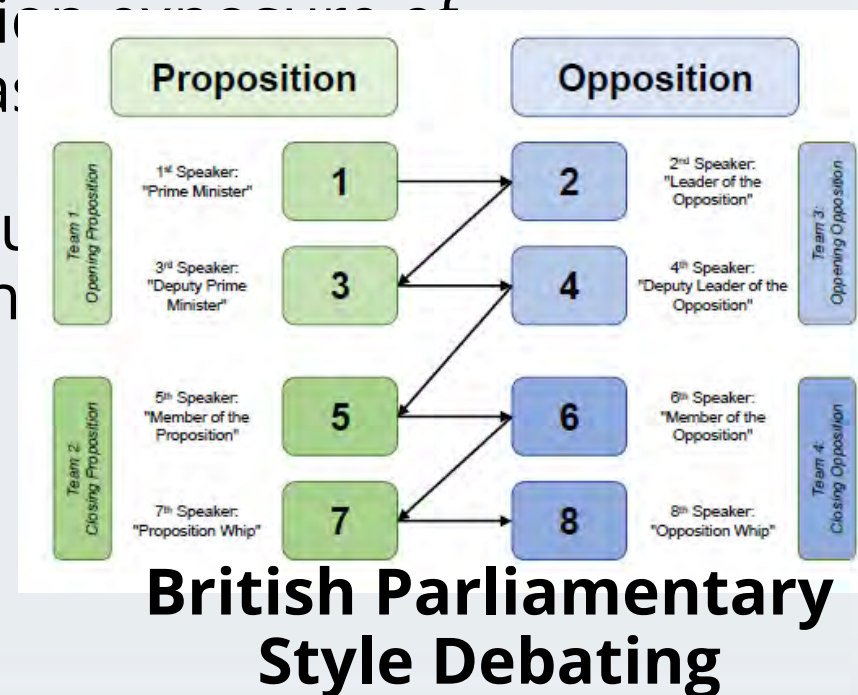
Research questions and methodology

Issues of complexity

Radiotoxic uranium concentrations in phosphate rock can exceed concentrations of low-grade uranium mines as they are for instance found in Namibia. Whether or not uranium should be recovered from phosphates is actively discussed in the scientific community.

- **Recovering uranium** can increase radiation exposure of workers, be a proliferation risk and increase food prices

- (1) **Not recovering uranium** can pollute groundwater and increase radiation exposure to farmers and
- (2) an experience in international university debating in order to
- (3) learn more about the real-world challenging subjects related to UN SDGs





University for Continuing Education Krems.

Nils Haneklaus & Liliya Satalkina

nilsheneklaus@donau-uni.ac.at; liliya.satalkina@donau-uni.ac.at

Mary Kaggwa

marykaggwa@kyu.ac.ug



Strengthening community-based research for river health and climate change mitigation in Eastern Africa

- Grace Asiyo Ssanyu, Kyambogo University
- Andreas Melcher, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna
- Andreas Bauer, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna

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P012_Uganda_Kenya

Strengthening community-based research for river health and climate change mitigation in Eastern Africa



Cooperating countries: Uganda, Kenya and Austria

Coordinating institution: Kyambogo University, Dr. Grace Asiyo Ssanyu, ✉ assanyu@kyu.ac.ug

Partner institutions: University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna, African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) Kenya, Egerton University Kenya

Project duration: 1 July 2021 - 30 June 2023

Abstract:

Many cities and towns in Africa rely on streams and rivers for water supply. However, the water quality of these ecosystems is often jeopardized by pollution from point and non-point effluents from industries and agricultural land, and climate change effects. At the same time, water quality monitoring of these ecosystems have been limited to physical and chemical indicator models, which has been considered as short term, and highly variable to be used as evidence for management. One solution is community based monitoring models that provide long term water quality status indication, based on the variable response of animal communities to river habitat disturbance and climate change. These models are however not widely considered or applied.



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1010 Vienna



Strengthening community-based research for river health and climate change mitigation in Eastern Africa

Ssanyu G.A.¹, Bauer A.², Kitaka N.³, Melcher A.², Mutekanga N.¹, Numi A.⁴, Kabasa M.⁴, Onyango J.⁴, Slezak G.², Auma L.³



Partners

- Kyambogo University (Uganda)
- University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (Austria)
- Egerton University (Kenya)
- African Centre for Technology Studies (Kenya)



Project Duration

01.07.2021 – 30.06.2023

- 1 – Kyambogo University (Uganda)
- 2 – University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (Austria)
- 3 – Egerton University (Kenya)
- 4 – African Centre for Technology Studies (Kenya)



Background

Lack access to **safe drinking water** in sub-Saharan Africa

Depandancy of water supply from stream and rivers

Degredation of freshwater ecosystem (point source, non-point source pollution, climate change, etc.)



Background



Need to **transform ecosystem use** towards **sustainability**

Continuous assessment of ecosystem status

Background

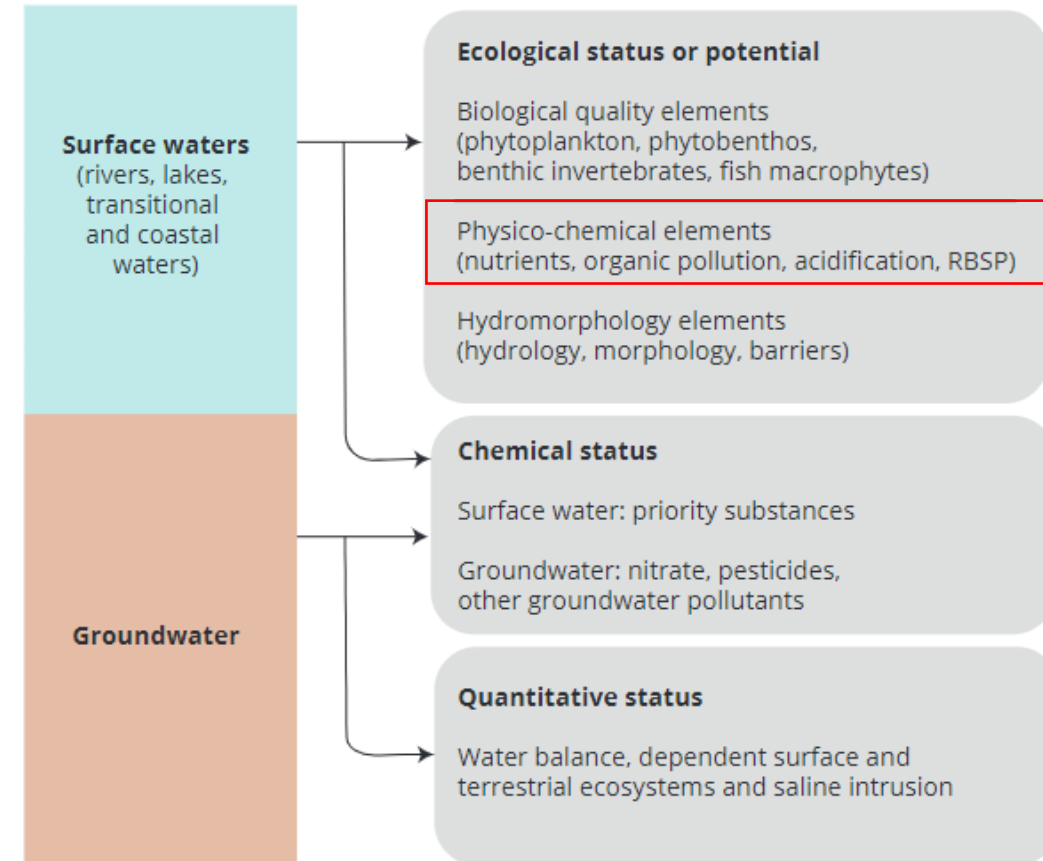


Need to **transform ecosystem use** towards **sustainability**

Continuous assessment of **ecosystem status**

Water Quality Monitoring in Uganda **limited** to physical and chemical parameters

➔ **short term evidence**



EEA Report: European waters, Assessment of status and pressures 2018
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/state-of-water>

Background



Need to **transform ecosystem use** towards **sustainability**

Continuous assessment of **ecosystem status**

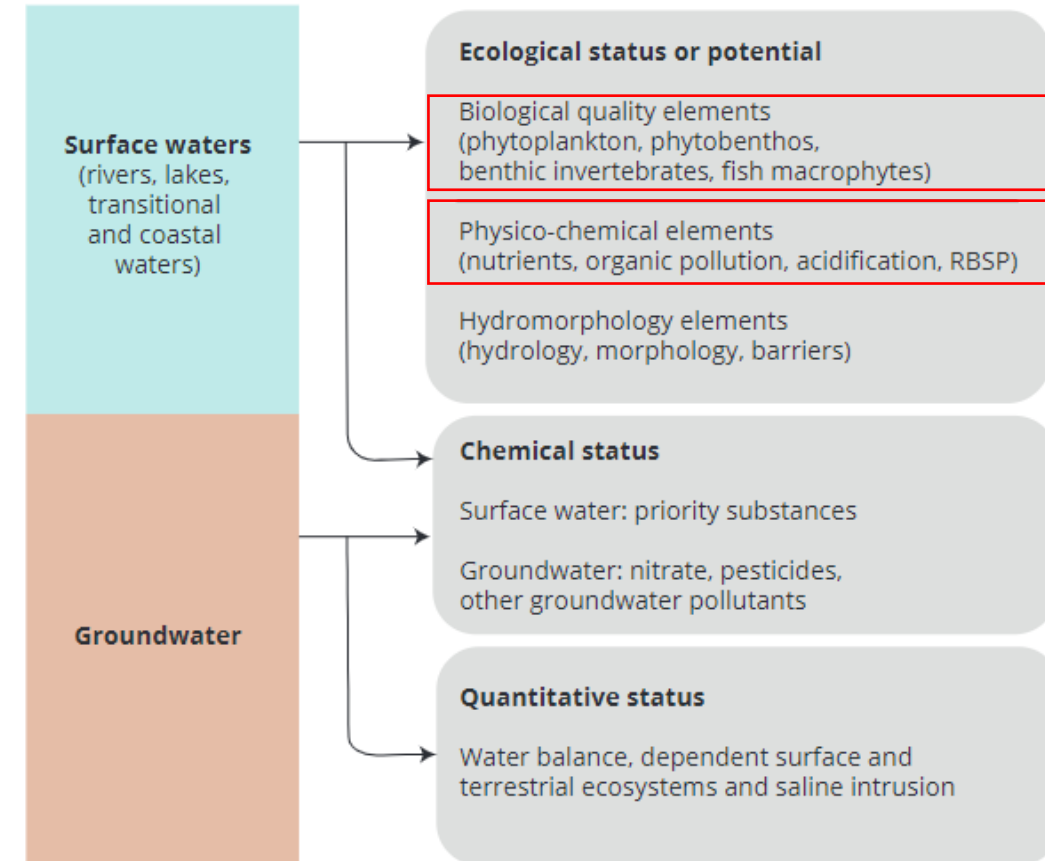
Water Quality Monitoring in Uganda **limited** to physical and chemical parameters

➔ **short term evidence**

Requirement for decision making in **sustainable management?**

➔ **mid- to long term evidence**

Community-based monitoring (e.g. benthic Invertebrates, fish) (**mid- to long term**)



EEA Report: European waters, Assessment of status and pressures 2018
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/state-of-water>

Background

Need to transform ecosystem use towards sustainability

Continuous assessment of ecosystem status

Water Quality Monitoring in Uganda limited to physical and chemical parameters

➔ short term evidence

Requirement for decision making in sustainable management?

➔ mid- to long term evidence

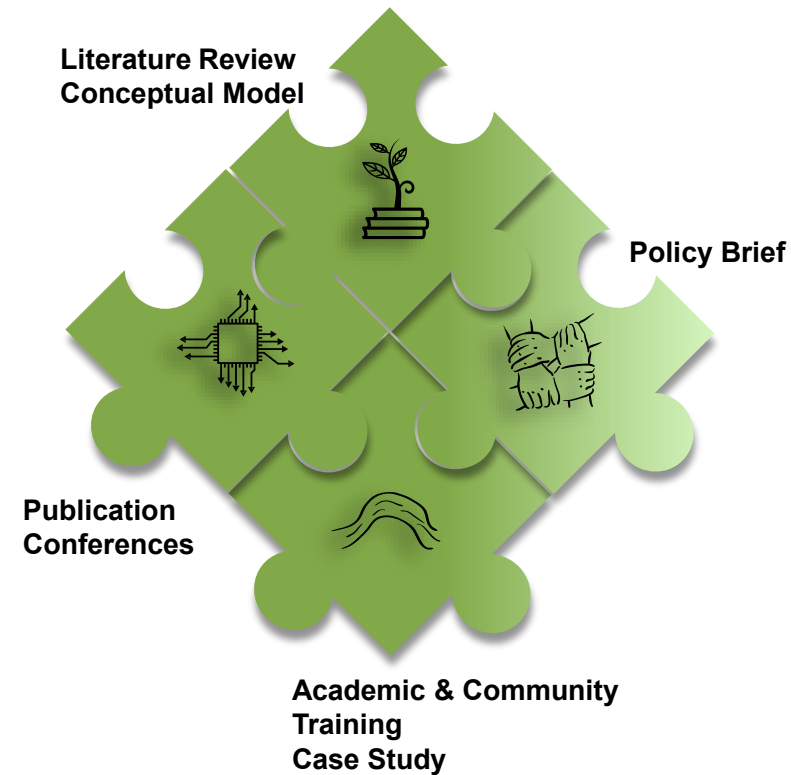
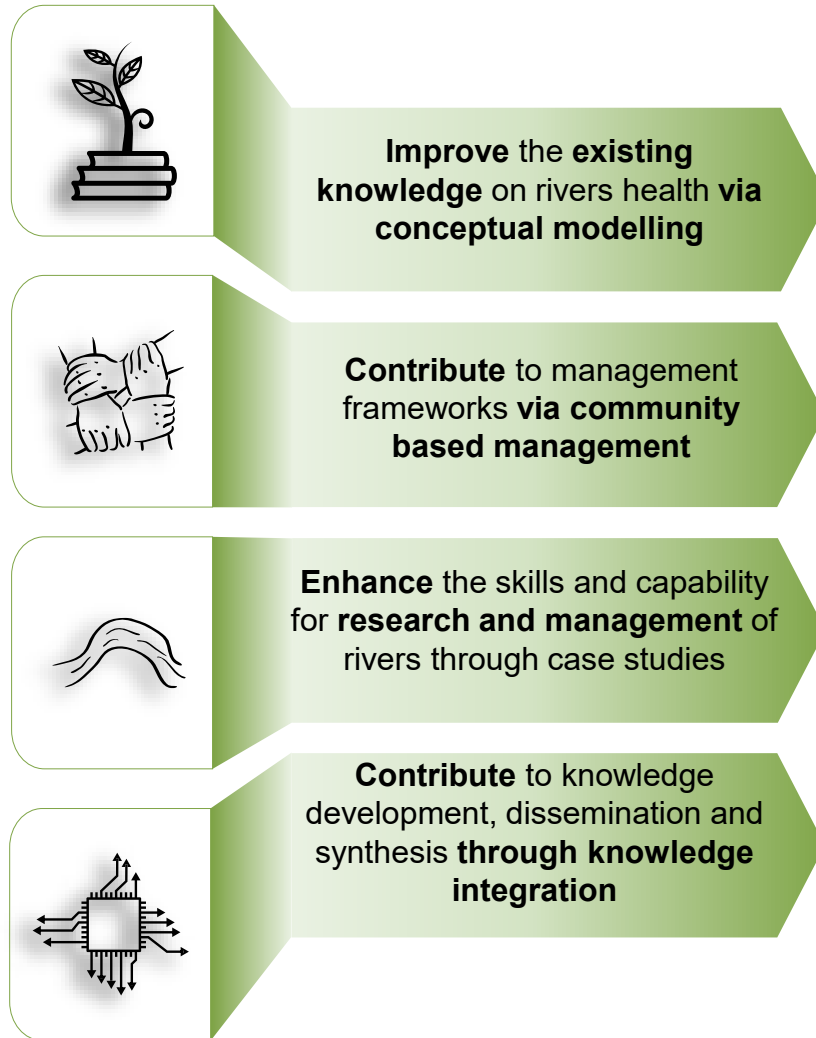
Community-based monitoring (e.g. benthic Invertebrates, fish) (mid- to long term)

Taylor made and demand driven solution

Community engagement



Project Objectives and Activities

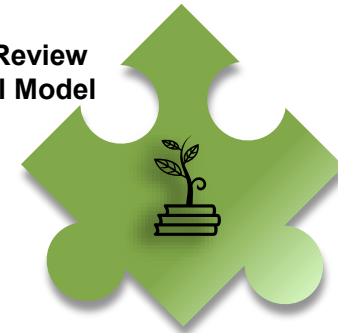




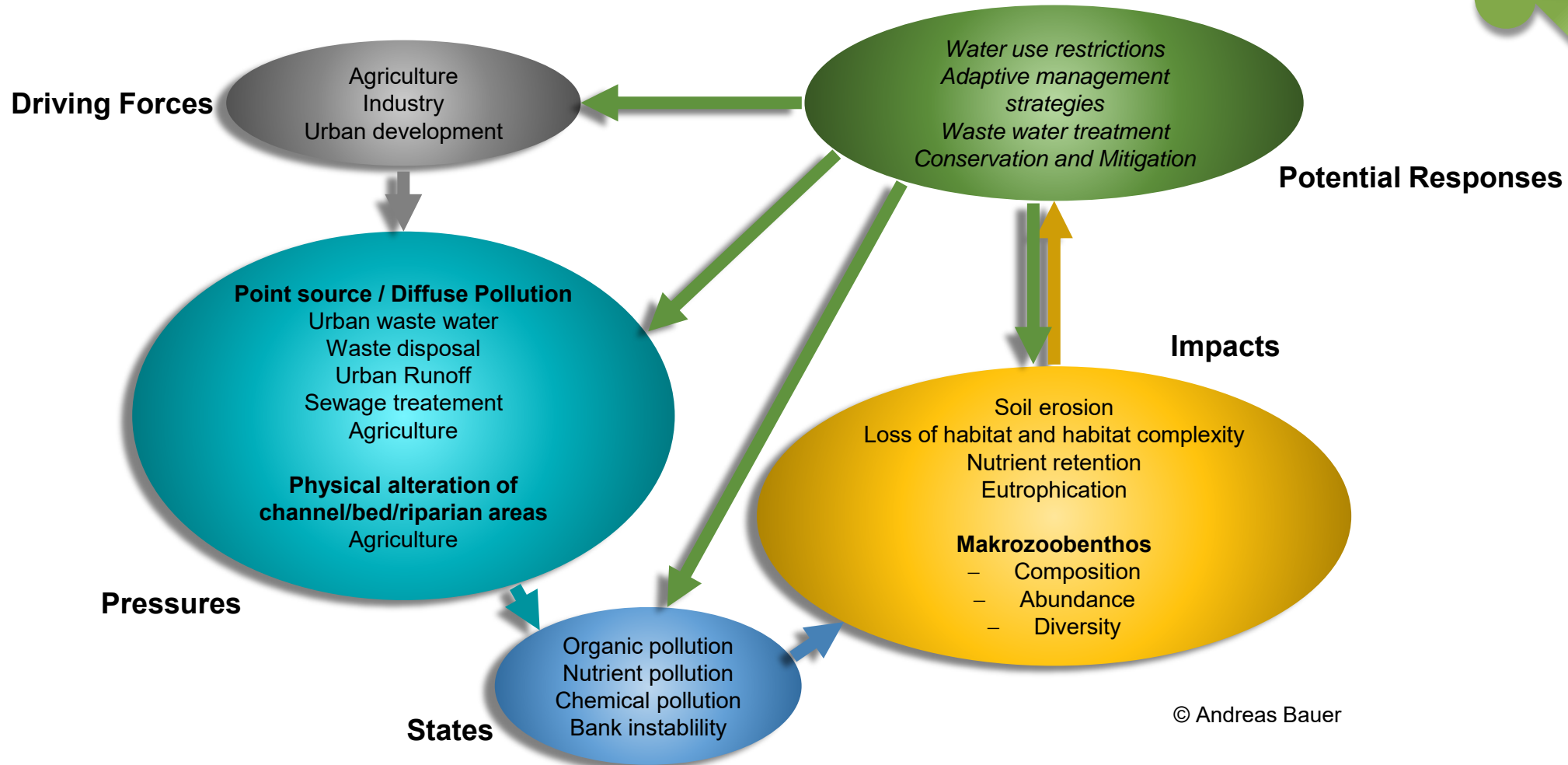
Improve the existing knowledge on rivers health via conceptual modelling



**Literature Review
Conceptual Model**

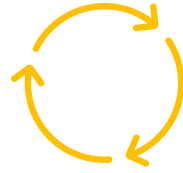


„Driver-Pressure-Status-Impact-Response“ model





Contribute to management frameworks **via community based management**



Trans- interdisciplinary innovation pathway to transform management of **water resources via community** and **demand driven** approach

Community based engagement I (academic/non-Academic stakeholders)

- Define priorities and assess demand
- Tailor solutions in water resource management

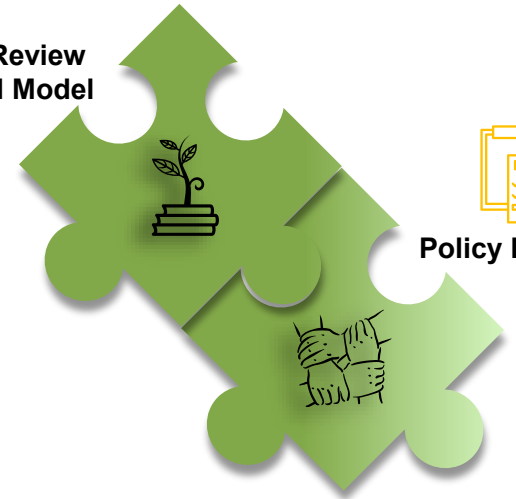


Community based engagement II (Dissemination/Training)

- Disseminate knowledge
- Mobilize local community, women and youth groups
- Train to use the manuals for river water quality monitoring



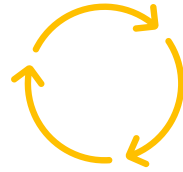
Literature Review
Conceptual Model



Policy Brief



Enhance the skills and capability for **research and management** of rivers through case studies



Research based training via case studies

Specific **short courses** for Master students and trainings on **technical skill** acquisition for **local communities/practitioners** and **stakeholders**

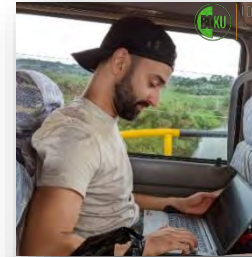
Case study I (River Mayanja)

MSc. Thesis, Andreas Bauer, IDR BOKU

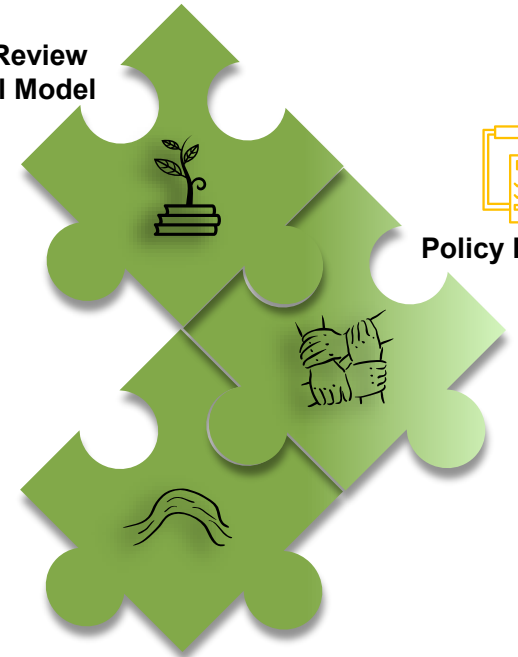
“Eco-evidence based human impact and stressor identification on Mayanja River (Uganda)”
Landuse, Vegetation, Macrozoobenthos, Abiotic Data

Case study II (River Njoro)

Modelling existing Data
Landuse, Vegetation, Macrozoobenthos, Abiotic Data



Literature Review
Conceptual Model



Policy Brief

Academic & Community
Training
Case Study

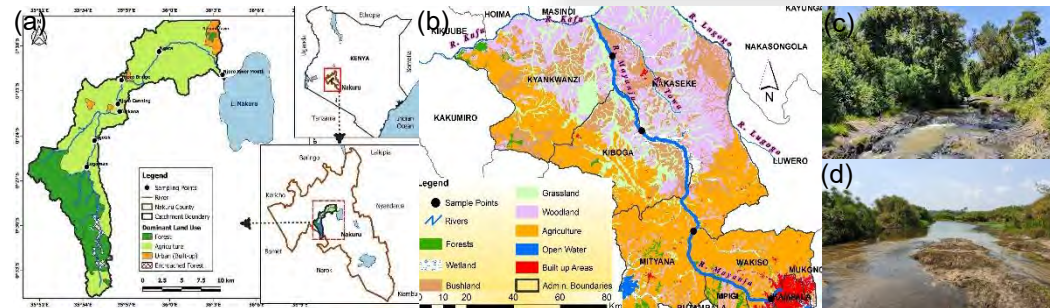
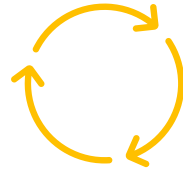


Figure 4 Case Study areas (a) River Njoro (c) @Nakuru District, Kenya (b) River Mayanja (d) @Mityana District, Uganda



Enhance the skills and capability for **research and management** of rivers through case studies



Research based training via case studies

Specific **short courses** for Master students and trainings on **technical skill** acquisition for **local communities/practitioners** and **stakeholders**

Case study I (River Mayanja)

MSc. Thesis, Andreas Bauer, IDR BOKU



“Eco-evidence based human impact and stressor identification on Mayanja River (Uganda)”

Landuse, Vegetation, Macrozoobenthos, Abiotic Data

Case study II (River Njoro)



Modelling existing Data

Landuse, Vegetation, Macrozoobenthos, Abiotic Data



Lecture - Integrated water resource management

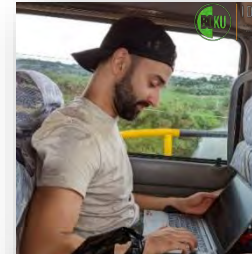
Excursion - Environmental management (Zikka Forrest)



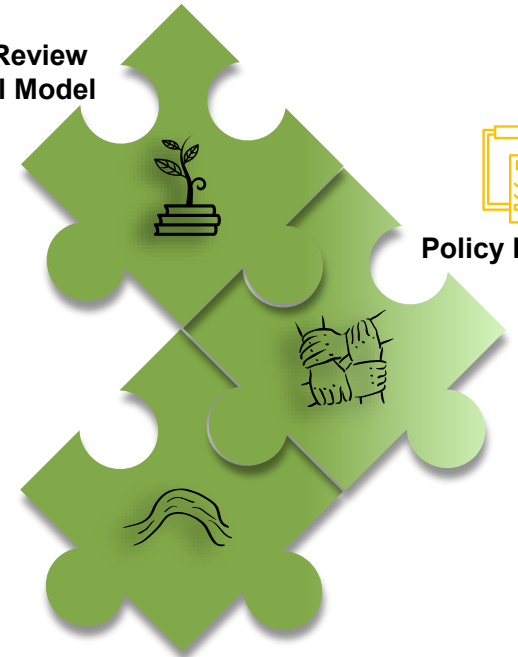
Course Concept - Water Quality Status Assessment (KyU)

4-Day Short Course - Community based research (online, KyU, Egerton, ACTS, BOKU)

Community Training - Community based engagement II



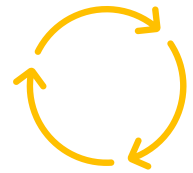
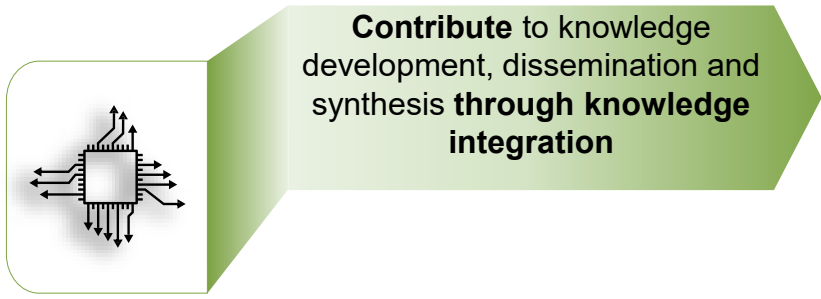
Literature Review
Conceptual Model



Policy Brief




Academic & Community
Training
Case Study






Dissemination, knowledge synthesis and impact evaluation in Uganda and Kenya




Publication

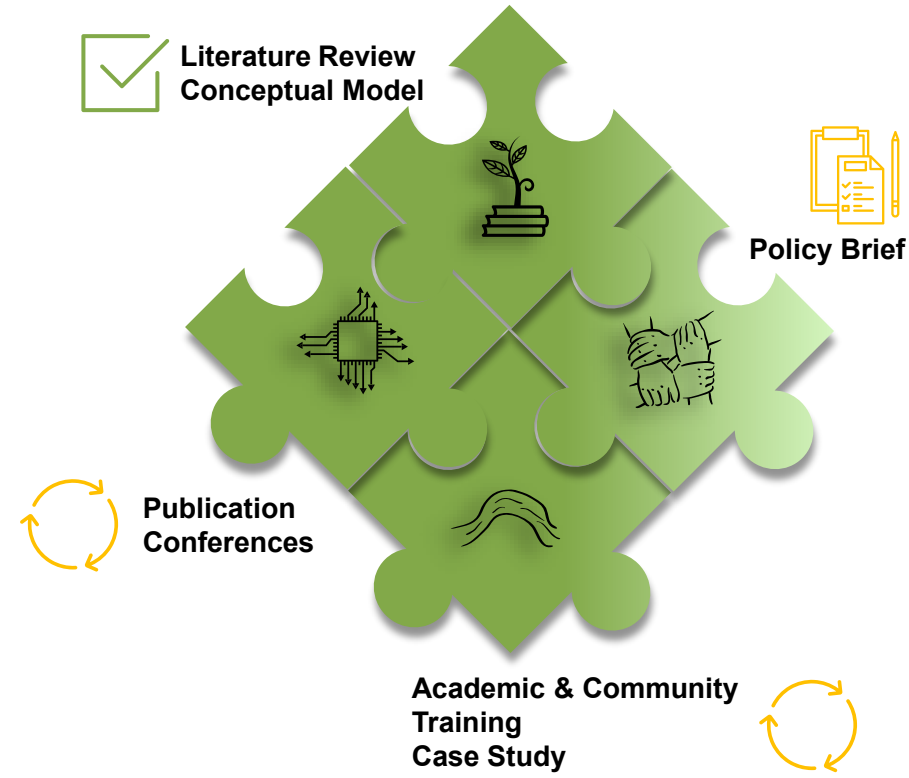
-  Literature Review and Conceptual Model
-  Case studies
-  Policy Brief

Conferences

-  To be decided

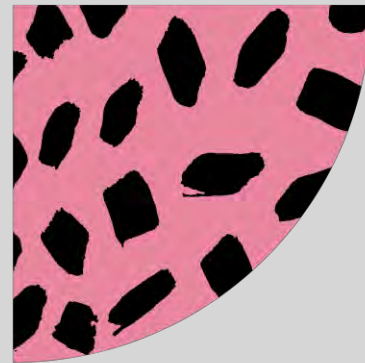
Dissemination

-  Publication
-  Policy Brief
-  Community based engagement





IT'S SCIENCE



*Research that
makes a difference*

The epigenetics of the spermatozoa of HIV-I infected men

- Mark Wossidlo, Medical University of Vienna
- Edidiong Akang, University of Lagos

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P024_Nigeria

The epigenetics of the spermatozoa of HIV-I infected men

Cooperating countries: Nigeria and Austria

Coordinating institution: Medical University Vienna, Dr. Mark Wossidlo, mark.wossidlo@meduniwien.ac.at

Partner institution: University of Lagos

Project duration: 1 June 2021 - 31 May 2023

Abstract:
HIV (Human immunodeficiency virus) is still a global concern of all nations worldwide with estimated 38.0 million infected people up-to-date. Nigeria has the second largest HIV epidemic in the world with still many AIDS-related deaths (150.000 in 2017). Efforts have been made to scale-up treatment access to combined antiretroviral treatment (cART), which enables people to turn HIV into a manageable chronic health condition with a long and healthy life. In recent years a not well-understood decline in fertility of HIV-I positive men undergoing cART are a great concern for HIV treatment. Recent studies detected epigenetic abnormalities in blood of HIV-I patients undergoing cART, where it is not clear if cART could be the cause of these changes. Wrong



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THE EPIGENETICS OF THE SPERMATOZOA OF HIV-1 INFECTED MEN



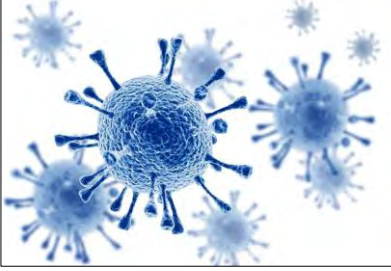
Dr. Edidiong N. Akang

&

Ap. Prof. Dr. Mark Wossidlo



MEDICAL UNIVERSITY
OF VIENNA

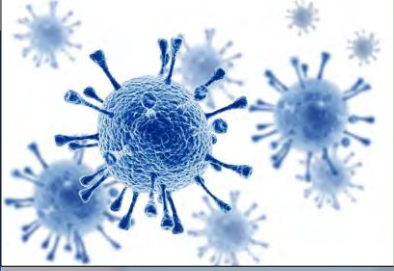


HIV: STILL A WORLD-WIDE PANDEMIC



- First reported in June 1981 in Los Angeles (CDC, 1981)
- 84.2 million infected
- Over 40.1 million dead
- 38.4 million people living with HIV (PLHV)
- HIV+ acquired in 2021 = 1.5 million
- HIV+ deaths in 2021 = 650,000
- Prevalence in Africa, 1:25 adults





“TEST & TREAT”

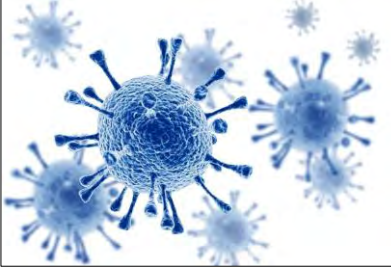


Antiretrovirals

Has greatly improved the lifespan of PLHV making HIV a chronic disease

In 2020, 75% of PLHV were on antiretroviral therapy (ART)

Vision 2030, 95 % of PLHV will be on ART



HIV – MALE INFERTILITY?



Contraindications

Side effects have promoted noncompliance to ART

ANDROLOGY



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ANDROLOGY

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

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Naringenin attenuates highly active antiretroviral therapy-induced sperm DNA fragmentations and testicular toxicity in Sprague-Dawley rats

^{1,2}M. Y. Adana, ^{1,3}E. N. Akang , ^{1,4}A. I. Peter, ¹A. I. Jegede, ¹E. C. S. Naidu, ⁵C. Tiloke, ⁵A. A. Chaturgoon and ^{1,6}O. O. Azu

Journal of Scientific Research and Development (2021) Vol. 20 (1) 110-122

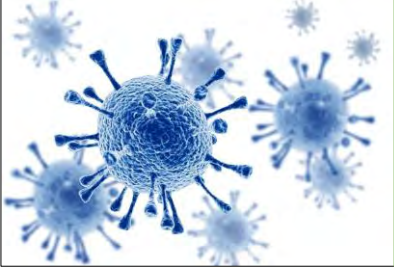


A bi-annual journal published by the Faculty of Science, University of Lagos, Nigeria

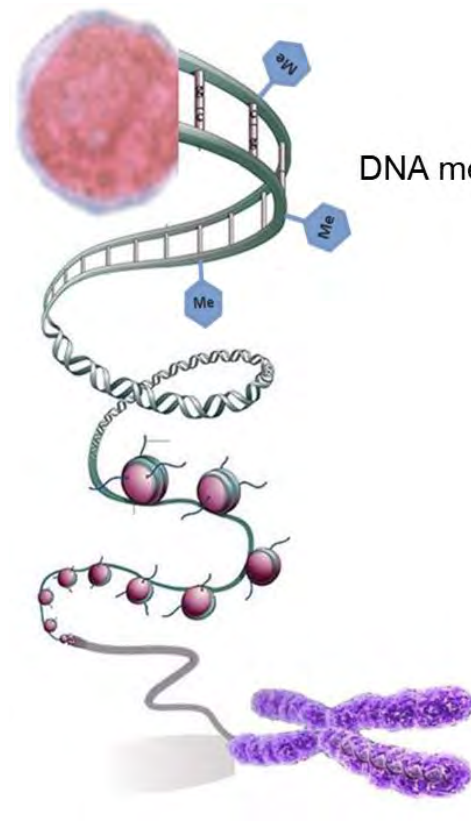
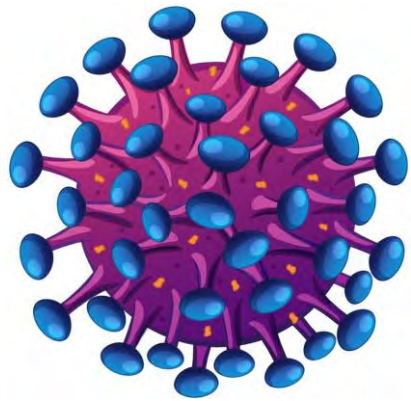
<http://jsrd.unilag.edu.ng/index.php/jsrd>

Testicular toxicological effects of combination antiretroviral therapy (cART): An x-ray on the therapeutic potential of bioflavonoids

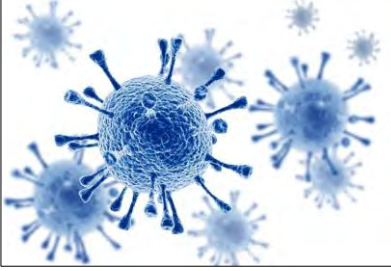
*Olufunke Olubusola Dosumu, *Edidiong Nnamso Akang, *Ini-ibehe Essien Okoko, *Oluwafunmisho Temitope Olowo, *Ademola Ayodele Oremosu, ^bAlani Sulaimon Akanmu.



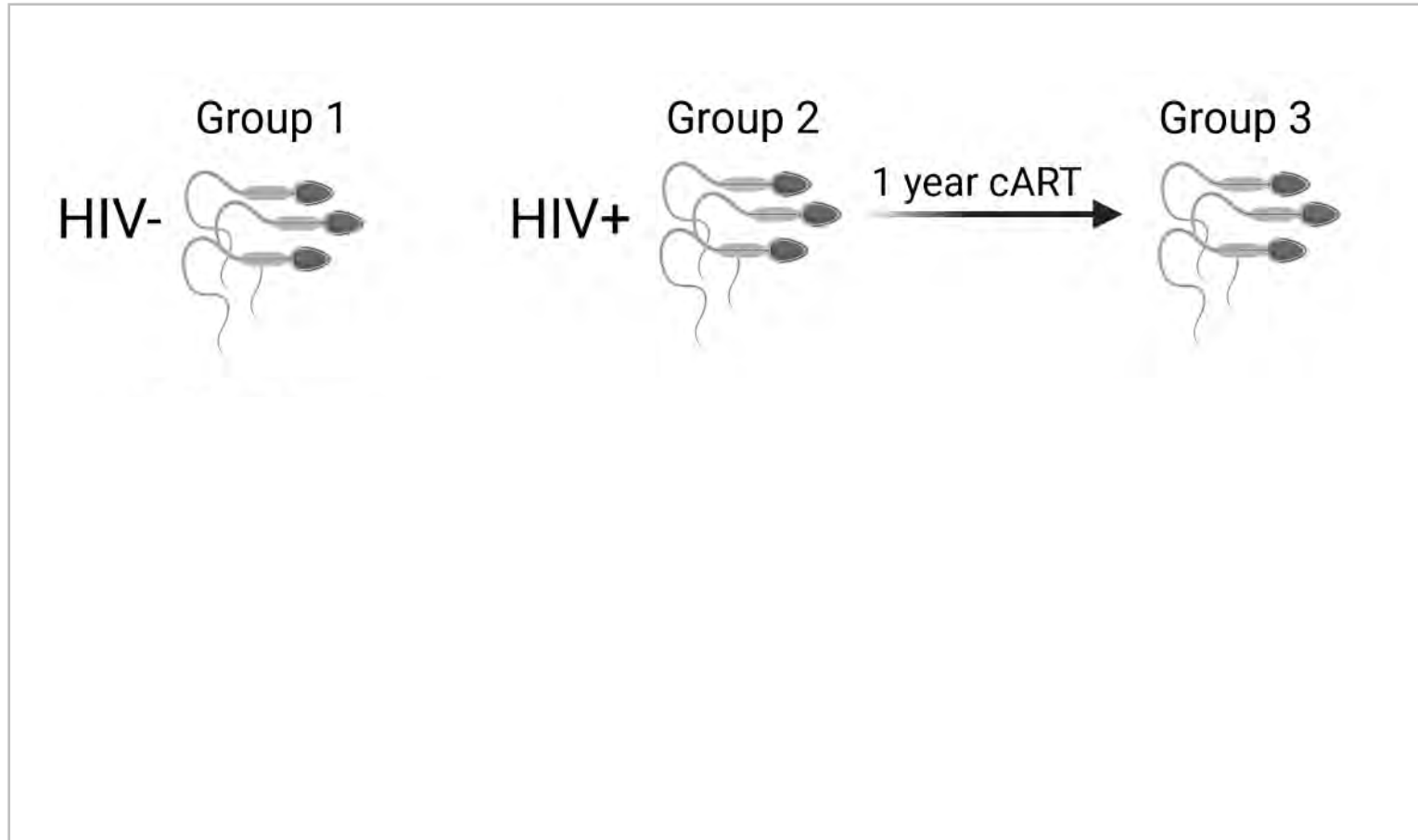
HIV & EPIGENETICS



Alexskopje @wissenschaft.de

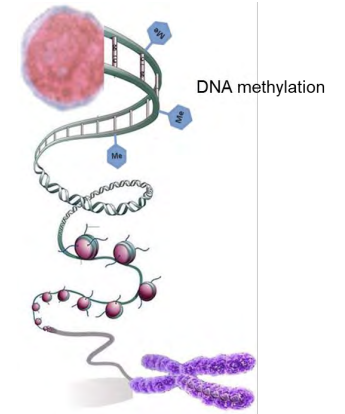


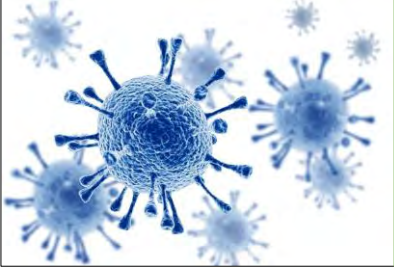
PROJECT DESIGN



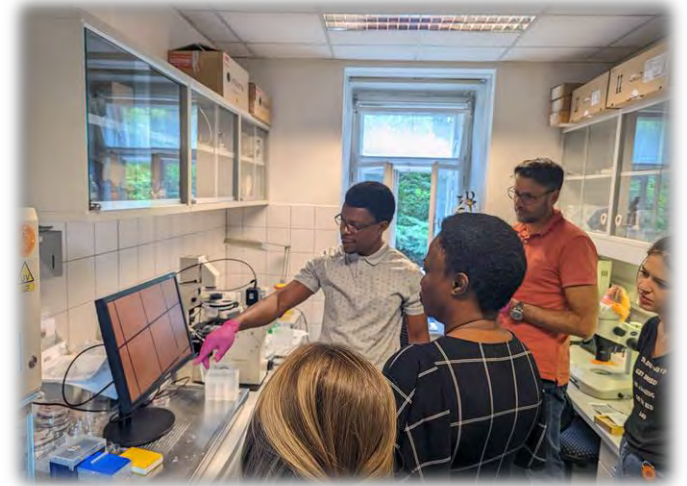
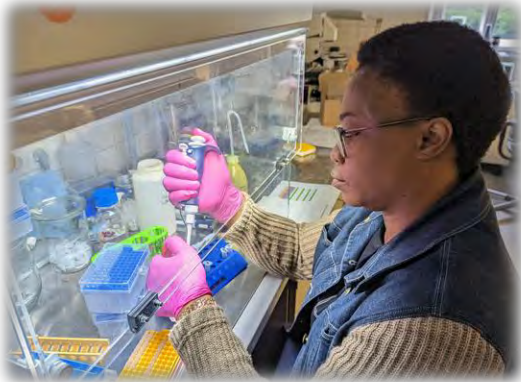
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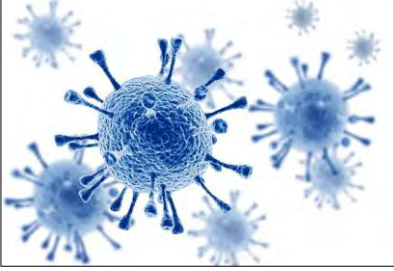
Epigenetic Workshop
in Lagos, Nigeria





PILOT EXPERIMENTS IN VIENNA





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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Ap. Prof. Dr. Mark Wossidlo
Dr. Julia Arand



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International Investment Agreements (IIAs) and the UNSDGs - Rethinking Approaches to Achieving Investment Protection and Sustainable Development in IIAs Deals in Nigeria

Gudrun Zagel, Paris Lodron University of Salzburg

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P040_Nigeria

International Investment Agreements (IIAs) and the UNSDGs - Rethinking Approaches to Achieving Investment Protection and Sustainable Development in IIAs Deals in Nigeria



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Cooperating Countries: Nigeria and Austria

Coordinating Institution: University of Lagos (Nigeria), Prof. Yemi Oke, ✉ yoke@unilag.edu.ng

Partner Institution: Paris Lodron University of Salzburg (Austria)

Project duration: 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2022

Abstract:

The project will examine the international legal framework governing foreign investment and its impact on the implementation of the UNSDGs. While the UNSDGs consider foreign investment to play an important role in their implementation (UNSDG 1a, 1b, 2a, 7a, and 10b), the international legal framework governing foreign investment appears to impede rather than promote sustainable foreign investment. International Investment Agreements (IIAs) as well as the Investor-State-Dispute Settlement System (ISDS) play a controversial role in this debate and the criticism in these instruments has resulted in a world-wide IIA crisis followed by extensive discussions on IIA reform.



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International Investment Agreements (IIAs) and the UNSDGs

Rethinking Approaches to Achieving Investment Protection and Sustainable Development in IIA Deals in Nigeria

Prof. Gudrun Zagel, Paris Lodron University Salzburg

Prof. Yemi Oke, University of Lagos

P_040 Nigeria (2021-2023)

The Problem

- Nigeria relies on foreign investment to implement the UNSDGs/the AU Agenda 2063
 - +energy
 - +transportation infrastructure
 - +water and sewerage systems
 - +public health
 - +education
- The international legal framework governing foreign investment impedes rather than promote sustainable foreign investment as it permits foreign investors to challenge environmental, social, or climate measures affecting their investment or income and arbitral tribunals may award compensation for such losses

Infamous Examples

Nigeria

- Shell v Nigeria
- P&ID v Nigeria

Other African States

- Cortec v Kenia
- Veolia v Egypt

Legal Status Quo

30 International Investment Agreements (IIAs) signed
(14 in force (all traditional IIAs))

Legal issues:

- +vague standards of expropriation and fair and equitable treatment
- +environmental or social interests of host states not mentioned
- +host state right to regulate is not incorporated
- +no guidance on how to calculate damages
- +dispute settlement system gives wide flexibility to arbitrators to decide

IIA Reform

- Modernized Model IIA 2016
- 3 modern IIAs signed but not in force
 - IIA Morocco-Nigeria
 - IIA Nigeria-Singapore
 - IIA Nigeria-United Arab Emirates

Remaining issues:

- Uncertain whether the reformed IIAs permit to reconcile foreign investment and the implementation of the UNSDGs/AU Agenda 2063
- Traditional IIAs still in force

The Research Questions

- Examination of traditional Nigerian IIAs on their challenges for Nigeria's SD policies
- Examination of Nigeria's modern IIAs on how they are able to cope with the challenges of traditional IIAs for sustainable development

How is the Project Performed?

Law on the books

- Examine existing traditional IIAs on their problematic provisions for sustainable foreign investment
- Analyze the provisions in modern Nigerian IIAs on their adequacy to address the identified issues

Law in action (Field Research)

- Develop a questionnaire on what role sustainable development plays in negotiating and applying IIAs and send it out to relevant stakeholders
- Workshop with relevant stakeholders from Nigerian authorities, representatives of industries, NGOs, lawyers and academics to discuss:
 - *how sustainability criteria play a role in drafting rules for foreign investment and identify practical problems to be addressed in a reformed legal framework
 - *reform approaches to make the legal framework conducive to sustainable foreign investment

Outcome

Policy Proposal:

- +Develop a well-balanced Model IIA that takes into account the need to attract foreign investment to realize the UNSDGs and, at the same time, gives Nigeria the regulatory space to ensure that foreign investors contribute to the UNSDGs
- +Develop policy approaches to create a consistent IIA legal framework that serves the attraction of sustainable foreign investment

Dissemination: Article on the results of the project to be published in a peer-reviewed law journal, also to be distributed to the participants of the workshop

Education/Training: Co-teach a course on International Investment Law and Sustainable Development at the University of Lagos to make students – *i.e.* future lawyers – aware of the need to mainstream sustainable development in the legal framework governing investment projects

Poster presentations

- Now, including coffee break: 15:15-16:00
- Coffee break on Tuesday: 15:30-16:00



**A warm
welcome to
all APPEAR
and LWM
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Thank you!

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