

Ugandan-Austrian University Cooperation

Information and Networking Meeting
Kyambogo University, Uganda
16 January 2025

With funding from



appear

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Our sincere thanks go to Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Eli Katunguka-Rwakishaya, Dean Assoc. Prof. Ediriisa Mugampoza, Head of Department Dr. Grace Kizito Bakyayita and the whole management of Kyambogo University for hosting this event. We are furthermore grateful to Gerald Kwikiriza, Dr. Mary Kaggwa, and Dr. Peter Akoll for their tireless support in organising this event.

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Meeting Programme

Venue: Kyambogo University Central Teaching Facility (CTF), Auditorium 105

08:30 Registration

09:00 Opening and Welcome Remarks

- + Dean Assoc. Prof. Ediriisa Mugampoza, Kyambogo University
- + Ulrich Hörmann, Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation (OeAD)
- + Vice Chancellor Dr. Eli Katunguka-Rwakishaya PhD, Kyambogo University
- + Dr. Simone Knapp, Austrian Ambassador accredited to Uganda

Event moderated by Dr. Isaac Tibasiima, Makerere University

09:30 Group Picture

10:00 Maintaining Connections, Expanding Partnerships and Realizing New Visions | Overview

- + **Austrian Development Cooperation in Uganda**
Dr. Katja Kerschbaumer, Head of Office of the Austrian Embassy Development Cooperation in Uganda
- + **Higher Education Cooperation Between Uganda and Austria: APPEAR | Africa-UniNet | KoEF**
Julia Lichtkoppler, Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation (OeAD)
- + **IPGL – International Post-Graduate Training Course in Limnology**
Dr. Peter Akoll, Makerere University
Followed by Q&A

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 Maintaining Connections, Expanding Partnerships and Realizing New Visions | Examples

- + **Empowering Research: A Scholar's Journey to Leading Major Projects**
Dr. Mary Kaggwa, Kyambogo University
[The Phosphorus Negotiation Game – SDGs in Action](#) | Africa-UniNet P006
[Biosorption for Sustainable Small-Scale Gold Mining in Uganda](#) | APPEAR Project341 BioGold
- + **The Agroecology Rwenzori Project: Experiences from APPEAR Partnerships**
Dr. Violet Kisakye, Mountains of the Moon University (MMU)
[AER-Phase II](#) | APPEAR Project262
- + **Sustainable Water Quality Management Supporting Uganda's Development Ambitions**
[SWAQ-Uganda](#)
Amon Aine, Makerere University and APPEAR scholar
Followed by Q&A

12:30 Lunch Break

Afternoon Programme only for APPEAR and Africa-UniNet partners as well as IPGL scholars and alumni

13:30 Introductory Round of Participants

14:00 Reflection and Discussion in Working Groups

Working Group 1: How can we use the results of joint research? What methods offer great potential for sharing scientific discoveries with the scientific community? How can findings be integrated into policy and private sector operations? What methodologies can be employed to facilitate the processing and discussion of results in a manner that informs the generation of actionable outcomes?

Host: Dr. Jeninah Karungi, Makerere University

Working Group 2: How can projects lead to a strong and sustainable institutional partnership? What kind of regional and international networking is needed? What role do young researchers, scholarship holders and alumni play in this respect?

Host: Gerald Kwikiriza, Makerere University

Working Group 3: How can projects include cross-cutting issues? What are the possibilities, limitations and challenges in including gender mainstreaming perspectives that go beyond women empowerment measures and in following an inclusive education approach?

Host: Prof. Dr. Grace Akello, Gulu University

Including coffee

15:00 Panel Discussion on Conclusions from the Working Groups

- + Prof. Dr. Grace Akello, Gulu University
- + Dr. Peter Akoll, Makerere University
- + Dr. Jeninah Karungi, Makerere University
- + Gerald Kwikiriza, Makerere University
- + Univ.-Prof. Dr. Harald Meimberg, BOKU University

Moderated by Dr. Isaac Tibasiima, Makerere University

16:30 End of the Official Programme

18:00 Joint Dinner for APPEAR and Africa-UniNet Partners as well as IPGL scholars and alumni

Venue: Protea Hotel Kampala Skyz

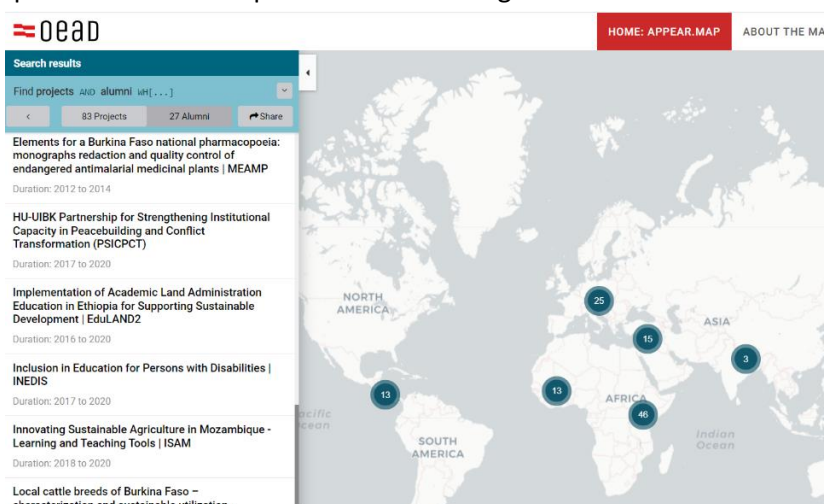
Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development | APPEAR

www.appear.at

The Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development (APPEAR) is a programme of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) and is implemented by OeAD. APPEAR contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Its overall objective is to strengthen the scientific foundation and institutional capacities in higher education, research and management in the partner countries through academic partnerships with Austrian higher education institutions and master's and PhD scholarships. Furthermore, APPEAR aims at increasing the commitment to international cooperation and development at Austrian higher education institutions.

APPEAR started in 2010, which marked the beginning of an intensive cooperation in research, teaching and management between Austrian higher education institutions, universities and scientific institutions in the priority countries of the Austrian Development Cooperation. Since the beginning of the programme, 43 (Advanced) Academic Partnerships in a total of 20

countries have been completed and more than 150 students from the partner countries have graduated with a master's or PhD degree from an Austrian university. The current programme phase of APPEAR III (2021-2027) has a total budget of 18 million euros. Within APPEAR III 31 (Advanced) Academic Partnerships and 34 Preparatory Fundings have been selected and more than 30 scholarships have been awarded. Priority countries in Africa are Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Uganda.



Cooperation Development Research | KoEF

www.oead.at/koef

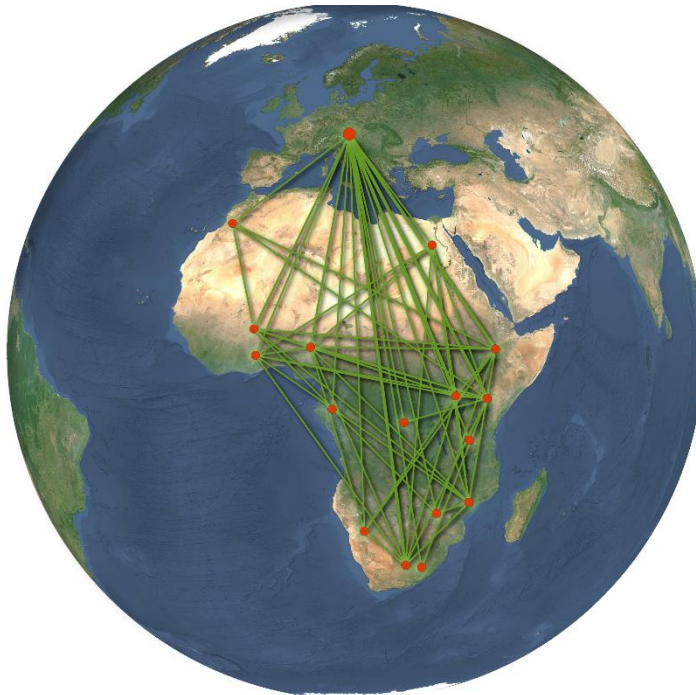
Cooperation Development Research is financed by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) and is an instrument to foster research on the two main principles of excellency and cooperation in development research. It supports application-oriented cooperation projects between Austrian higher education institutions and institutions in countries of the Global South and therewith contributes to the analysis and solution of local and regional challenges and to the achievement of the SDGs.

KoEF is currently funding 34 cooperative research projects in 22 different countries with a duration between 1 and 3 years, involving more than 270 researchers worldwide. The fourth call for funding is open until 28 February 2025. Cooperation Development Research is implemented by OeAD.

Austrian-African Research Network | Africa-UniNet

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

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



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

Africa-UniNet finances international research cooperation projects between Austrian and African member institutions. They cover a variety of topics and set out to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Africa-UniNet currently (as of December 2024) has financed more than 80 cooperative research projects and consists of more than 80 active member institutions that are located in Austria and in 20 different countries in Africa: Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. All higher education and research institutions in Austria and in all countries of the

African continent may become member. The fourth call for funding is open until 28 February 2025.

Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation | OeAD

APPEAR, KoEF and Africa-UniNet are implemented by OeAD – Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation. OeAD supports people in continuously expanding the necessary skills for a self-determined life in a digitised and globalised world and in working together – across borders – in science and education. Whether kindergarten, schools, higher education institutions and science, vocational education and training or adult education: the OeAD supports educational institutions in imparting the skills for the digital age – problem-solving skills, critical thinking, and collaboration and creativity.



www.oead.at

Speakers and Participants

Ivan Abaho

National Agricultural Research Organisation | ivomillo@gmail.com

Ivan Abaho is a PhD graduate from the Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science at Rhodes University, South Africa. He holds a MSc Zoology and BSc Fisheries and Aquaculture, both from Makerere University, Uganda. Abaho is currently a senior research scientist in Aquaculture at the National Agricultural Research Organization, Uganda. He has experience in planning and implementing agricultural research for development, focusing on the genetic improvement of commercial fish species for aquaculture. He has expertise in hatchery production, early fish development, fish production dynamics and is presently exploring phyto-androgenic compounds for the production of all-male Nile tilapia. Abaho has acquired skills in molecular biology approaches needed for genetic research investigations in various fish species. He also has vast experience in skill/technology transfer, project monitoring, evaluation, and learning. As a result of his expertise, Abaho is currently part of the research team that is developing a selective breeding programme for Nile tilapia and African catfish in Uganda.

Amon Aine

Kyambogo University and BOKU University | aine3amon@gmail.com

Amon Aine is a Ugandan limnologist specialising in the biomonitoring of freshwater ecosystems. His MSc research focused on river types and macroinvertebrate communities in the Rwenzori subregion. Currently a PhD candidate in Austria, Amon is developing river biomonitoring frameworks, aiming to address anomalies in assessing freshwater ecological integrity. Beyond academia, he actively supports NGOs by preparing project proposals and offering mentorship.

Isaac Eli Ainembabazi

BOKU University, IHE Delft and Egerton University | ainembabaziisaac2@gmail.com

His background is in environmental science, from his undergraduate degree to his Masters in Limnology and Wetland Management. Professionally, he has worked as an environmental officer on projects such as water supply and sanitation in Eastern Uganda.

Praise Ainomugisha

BOKU University, IHE Delft and Egerton University | praiseainomugisha8@gmail.com

Praise Ainomugisha is a recent MSc graduate in Limnology and Wetlands Management from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Institute for Water Education (IHE), Delft and Egerton University, Kenya. She holds a BSc in Environmental Management from Makerere University.

Grace Akello

Gulu University | akellograce@hotmail.com

Grace Akello, PhD is a Medical Anthropologist and Ethnographer trained at the University of Amsterdam and the University of Leiden in the Netherlands. She is currently an Associate Professor in Gulu University's Faculty of Medicine. Her research interests include humanitarianism, pandemic preparedness, gendered health policy, and reproductive and sexual health in complex emergencies and LMICs. She was the national coordinator of the APPEAR partnership between Gulu University and the University of Vienna to develop the pioneering Master of Medical Anthropology and International Health in Central and East Africa.

Jacqueline Akello

Kabale University | jakello@kab.ac.ug

Jacqueline Akello is a Senior Research Grants Officer working in the Directorate of Research and Grants. She is responsible for coordinating grants, partnerships and collaborations and identifying research grant opportunities for staff and developing staff capacity. Previously she was university secretary of African Rural University. She is passionate about institution growth and development. Her MSc is in Development Management from the Open University-UK.

Peter Akoll

Makerere University | akollp@gmail.com

Peter Akoll holds a PhD in Natural Sciences from the University of Vienna, Austria; MSc in Environmental Science specialising in Limnology and Wetland Ecosystems from UNESCO-IHE, Delft, The Netherlands; BSc Fisheries and Aquaculture from Makerere University. Dr. Akoll has initiated and coordinated several mobility-based international graduate training projects including STRECAFISH, COTRA, PAIRWISE, TRAM and IUCEA-KFW and

conducts basic and applied research in fisheries and aquaculture focusing on aquatic organisms' and environmental health, antimicrobial resistance as well as and the use of fish to address malnutrition.

Benedicto Akoraebirungi

Mountains of the Moon University | akorabenedict@mmu.ac.ug

Benedicto Akoraebirungi is a horticulturalist and holds an MSc in Natural Resources Management from Mountains of the Moon University (MMU). Currently, he is working as a Senior Assistant Academic Registrar at MMU. Besides, he has participated in research on agroecology and natural resources, and since 2019, in the establishment of agroecology demonstration farms in the Rwenzori region under the framework of the APPEAR funded AER I and AER II projects. As part of the two projects, he has been involved in the development and review of the Master of Science in Agroecology curriculum at MMU.

Simon Akwetaireho

Wetlands International | sakwetaireho@gmail.com

Through the North-South Dialogue Scholarship Programme financed by the Austrian Development Cooperation, Simon Akwetaireho obtained an MSc in Protected Area Management from the University of Klagenfurt, Austria in 2009. After graduating, he returned to Uganda and got employed by the following conservation organizations: Wildlife Conservation Society as a Project Manager for UNDP/GEF Conservation of Biodiversity in the Albertine Rift Forests of Uganda(2009-2011); the Jane Goodall Institute as Programme Director for the Forest Carbon Project in the Murchison-Semliki landscape (2011-2013); the Ministry of Water and Environment as Community Development Specialist for the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project phase 2 (2013-2017); and Wetlands International (2019 to-date) as a Technical Officer for the Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction Project in the Aswa River Catchment in Northern Uganda as well as the Sustainable Land Management Project in Sango Bay - Minziro Transboundary Wetlands Ecosystem between Uganda and Tanzania. Prior to his postgraduate studies in Austria, Simon Akwetaireho served as a Community Conservation Warden for 6 years with the Uganda Wildlife Authority, based in Kidepo Valley Conservation Area, Murchison Falls Conservation Area, Lake Mburo Conservation Area and Rwenzori Mountains National Park.

Isaac Newton Alou

Makerere University | isaacnewtonalou@gmail.com

Isaac Newton is a lecturer and holds a PhD in Soil Science from the University of Pretoria. His research experience is in agronomy, plant nutrition and crop modelling for arable crops. He has had the privilege of working with multi-disciplinary teams.

Faith Atukwatse

Makerere University | faith.atukwatse@gmail.com

Faith Atukwatse is a fisheries and aquaculture professional who is pursuing an MSc in Zoology in the field of Fisheries and Aquaculture. She is researching on microplastics in Nile tilapia from fish breeding sites in northern Lake Victoria.

David Baguma

Uganda Management Institute | bagusha2000@yahoo.com

Alex Barakagira

Nkumba University | abarakagira@nkumbauniversity.ac.ug

Alex holds a PhD in Environmental Geography from Nelson Mandela University, South Africa. He is an experienced senior member of academic staff with more than 15 years of teaching experience. He has a strong desire to teach and create a conducive learning environment. Alex is hence passionate and highly motivated to undertake research in the field of environmental management, restoration and sustainability. He has effectively mentored learners at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels in both coursework and research. He has published several peer-reviewed articles in national and international journals. Additionally, he has presented research papers in national and international conferences. He is actively involved in reviewing manuscripts submitted to several publishers for possible publication. Alex has strong administrative skills and serves on various committees at the university.

Rose Basooma

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Mahadi Ddamulira

Makerere University | mahadi.ddamulira@mak.ac.ug

Mahadi Ddamulira is a Lecturer in the Department of Mathematics at Makerere University. She completed her PhD in Mathematics at the Graz University of Technology in Austria in 2020. Her research is devoted to topics from diophantine equations which involve holonomic sequences and linearly recurrent sequences such as Fibonacci numbers, Lucas numbers, Pell numbers and the k-generalized Fibonacci numbers. Furthermore, she is the Makerere coordinator for the Africa-UniNet Project P105_Uganda Effective Resolution of Exponential Diophantine Equations.

Janice Desire Busingye

Cavendish University | janicedesire@gmail.com

Janice Desire Busingye is a passionate and experienced academic and Associate Professor, majoring in Adult and Community Education. She holds a doctorate and master's degree from the University of KwaZulu Natal in South Africa. She is an experienced educationist, former Deputy Vice Chancellor of Kampala International University and an astute administrator with over 20 years' experience in leadership and management, playing a prominent role in the emergence of KIU as the leading private university in Uganda, and the second-best university in Uganda. She is experienced in strategic leadership and planning, organisational and community development. Her published work is areas of health literacy, community engagement and livelihood security.

Denis Gobo

Muni University | d.gobo@muni.ac.ug

Denis Gobo is an accomplished academic and agricultural professional with a focus on extension education and sustainable agriculture. He has been a PhD student at Gulu University since June 2022. He obtained his BSc in Agricultural Extension Education from Makerere University in 2013 and her MSc in Agricultural Extension Education from Kyambogo University in 2018. He also obtained a Diploma in Organic Agriculture and Products from a Local and Global Perspective from the Danish Agricultural Advisory Services in Denmark in March 2013, which enhanced his understanding of sustainable agricultural systems in both local and international contexts.

Ulrich Hörmann

OeAD | ulrich.hoermann@oead.at

Ulrich Hörmann has been head of Central Services and Finances at the OeAD since 2009 and authorised representative (Prokurist) since 2016. He has more than 30 years of substantial experience in the field of internationalisation of higher education and joint projects. He served as the Secretary General of the Austrian Exchange Service (ÖAD, an association of the Austrian universities) from the year 2000 to 2008 after ten years of service in the same organisation first as Head of the Department of Development Cooperation and then as Deputy Secretary General. Ulrich Hörmann has studied social and economic sciences as well as catholic theology. In his master thesis he specialised on the issue of non-tariff-trade barriers between the USA, Europe and Japan.

Francis Jumba

King Ceasor University | ziryawula@gmail.com

Dr. Jumba Francis Richard is an agribusiness mentor and agroecologist with extensive teaching, research and field experience in Uganda and Europe. He is currently a Senior Lecturer and Head of Department of Agriculture at King Ceasor University. Jumba has worked as a lecturer, agribusiness advisor and most recently as an agricultural technical advisor at a Belgian NGO promoting agribusiness and agroecology namely Islands of Peace (IDP). In over 20 years of work, Francis has gained considerable experience in sustainable livelihood approaches, land use management, organic farming, agribusiness, agronomy, market system approaches, sustainable agriculture, research, advocacy, programme development and management. His research for development interests is broad in the areas of: value chain analysis, integrated farm planning. He has authored and co-authored several peer-reviewed research articles and book chapters.

Clovis Kabaseke

Mountains of the Moon University | clovis.kabaseke@mmu.ac.ug

Clovis Kabaseke is a lecturer and researcher at Mountains of the Moon University (MMU), Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, in the Department of Environment, Natural Resources, and Tourism. He is also the founder and director of the Mpanga Game Club for Integrated Natural Resources Management, a non-profit organisation comprising a diverse team of scientists, legal practitioners, and social workers. The club is dedicated to the sustainable natural resource management, focusing on agroecology, sustainable horticulture, integrated water resource management, disaster risk reduction, and tourism. Additionally, Clovis owns the Triple F Agroecology Demonstration Center, which showcases an innovative agroecological model based on three pillars:

Food, Feed, and Forest. Clovis has a deep technical understanding of Uganda's agroecosystems and is experienced in developing watershed management plans. His expertise encompasses waste management (specialising in organic and inorganic waste management, particularly recycling into clean energy and non-polluting materials); agroecology and horticulture (promoting eco-friendly horticulture and managing agroforestry systems).

Charles Kaggwa

Nkumba University | ckaggwa@nkumbauniversity.ac.ug

Charles Kaggwa is the Dean of the School of Commercial Industrial Art and Design (SCIAD) at Nkumba University (NU). He paints whenever he finds time in his work schedule. He also heads International Relations Office for NU. In addition to being the NU representative to Africa-UniNet, he has been an active participant in Africa-UniNet projects since 2021.

Mary Kaggwa

Kyambogo University | marykaggwa@kyu.ac.ug

Dr. Mary Therese Kaggwa is an accomplished environmental scientist with over two decades of experience. As a full-time lecturer at Kyambogo University, Uganda, she imparts her extensive knowledge and passion for environmental science. Her expertise includes aquatic ecosystem quality assessment and monitoring, environmental pollution, climate adaptation and environmental auditing. Dr. Kaggwa's re-search focuses on environmental science studies, and she has engaged in important consultancy projects in Uganda. Currently, she is involved in collaborative research in 'Biosorption for Sustainable Small-Scale Gold Mining in Uganda'. Her versatile skills and proven success at national, regional, and international levels have enabled her to make significant progress in environmental science.

Susan Kangume

Kabale University | skangume@kab.ac.ug

Susan Kangume is an innovative, hardworking, environmental scientist, a person of high integrity, and a good communicator, who works efficiently with minimal supervision, and demonstrates excellent interpersonal skills. She has extensive knowledge of climate change science, watershed management and conservation of natural resources. Furthermore, she has experience of teaching university students and working with communities through research. She is interested in growing academically through research and publications and is currently pursuing her PhD in Climate Change and Adaptation at the University of Nairobi.

Jeninah Karungi

Makerere University | jeninah.karungi@mak.ac.ug

Jeninah Karungi is an Associate Professor at the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Makerere University. She holds a BSc in Agriculture (1997), an MSc in Crop Science (1999) and a PhD in Agricultural Science (Entomology, 2007). She is an alumna of Makerere University, Imperial College of London (formerly Wye College), and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. Her research engagements span the areas of pest management, agroecology, crop protection, waste utilisation, insect ecology, pesticide usage and safety, seed quality, and participatory research. Her research outputs include 66 refereed scientific journal articles, and various refereed conference proceedings and book chapters. She has supervised 32 graduate students to successful completion, and 15 more are in the graduate training process at different levels in their studies. She is an experienced editor/reviewer of research articles/theses at regional and international levels. She is a recipient of the prestigious International Integrated Pest Management Excellence Award; Young Affiliate Fellow, The Academy of Sciences of the Developing World (TWAS), and Fellow, Uganda National Academy of Sciences.

Hillary Kasedde

Makerere University | hillary.kasedde@mak.ac.ug

Hillary Kasedde has a background in mechanical engineering with a specialisation in materials science and engineering and sustainable energy engineering. He has good practical training in teaching and research acquired since his bachelor's degree in 2007. He holds a PhD, Licentiate of Engineering, and Master of Science degree in Sustainable Energy Engineering awarded from the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden in 2016, 2013, and 2010, respectively; and a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Makerere University, awarded in 2007. Currently, he is a Lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering at the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology, Makerere University. His research interests are in the fields of separation processes, renewable energy conversion, energy recovery, and the environment, energy systems modelling, and simulation.

Harriet Kebirungi

Kyambogo University | kebirungharriet24@gmail.com

Dr. Harriet Kebirungi, a distinguished recipient of the Presidential Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2024, holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Gender Studies. Harriet led a team that successfully developed the groundbreaking Gender Policy in 2014, a pioneering initiative for Kyambogo University (KyU) that was subsequently approved by the University Council. As a Senior Lecturer in Gender and Development Studies, Department of Development Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Harriet currently chairs the Research, Publications, and Programmes Committee. Harriet played a pivotal role in establishing the Master of Gender and Women Studies programme, which she now coordinates. Additionally, she spearheaded the development of the Master of Development Studies programme. She is a member of the Higher Degrees Committee at the department and faculty. She has chaired and supported the integration of gender and equity in the development of new Undergraduate programmes and review of old programmes. Harriet founded KyU's Gender Mainstreaming Directorate and served as its Acting Director for 13 years. She has contributed to national, international, and institutional gender and equity policies and strategic plans.

Katja Kerschbaumer

Austrian Embassy/Development Cooperation

Dr. Katja Kerschbaumer is the Head of Office of the Austrian Embassy Development Cooperation in Uganda. She is an Expert in Judicial Reform and Governance and has more than 20 years of professional experience in the field of International Development. She studied Law and Theoretical and Applied Translation Studies (for the languages Russian and French) at the University of Graz (Austria) as well as the Université Jean Moulin III in Lyon (France), holds three Masters' degrees and completed her PhD in 2007 with a focus on Comparative Constitutional Law. She worked in the Austrian Ministry of Justice and for the World Bank in Washington D.C. in the areas of public health, HIV/AIDS and public-private partnerships in the Europe and Central Asia Region. She has also worked as an expert on Judicial Reform and Good Governance for the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was an Advisor to the Ugandan Judiciary for many years. Her interests include psychology, foreign cultures and traveling.

Violet Kisakye

Mountains of the Moon University | kviolet@mmu.ac.ug

Violet Kisakye is an Associate professor in the Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at Mountains of the Moon University. She graduated in 2018 with a PhD in Water Resources Management from the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium (KU Leuven). Through her research, she has extensively contributed to the area of water resources management specifically water for production in a changing climate. She holds a Master's degree in Integrated Water Resources Management which she obtained from the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. Violet also holds a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Land Use and Management from Makerere University, Uganda. She previously coordinated the APPEAR Academic Partnership called Agroecology Rwenzori project (AER) from 2017 to 2020 and is the current coordinator of the APPEAR Advanced Academic Partnership project called AER Phase II project.

Simone Knapp

Austrian Ambassador

Dr. Simone Knapp is the Austrian Ambassador to Ethiopia. She is also accredited to Uganda, Djibouti, South Sudan and Congo (Brazzaville), as well as the African Union (AU) and IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development). Until July 2022 Dr. Knapp was Director for Planning and Programming of bilateral and regional development cooperation in the Development Cooperation Directorate of the Austrian Ministry for European and International Affairs in Vienna. Before that, she was Deputy Head of the OSCE Task Force during Austria's Chairmanship 2017 and from 2015-2016 Deputy Director in the Africa Department of the Austrian Foreign Ministry. From 2011-2015 she was Head of Office of the Austrian Coordination Office for Development Cooperation in Kampala/Uganda. Between 2005 and 2011 she worked at the Austrian Permanent Representation to the European Union. Dr. Simone Knapp studied Political Science at the Leopold-Franzens University in Innsbruck.

Christine Kobugabe

Mountains of the Moon University | ckobugabe@mmu.ac.ug

Christine Kobugabe has been Senior Research Officer since 2022, prior to which she worked as a Programme Officer in the Institutional University Cooperation between Mountains of the Moon University and Belgian institutions. From 2015 to 2019 she was Senior Assistant Registrar Academic, in charge of admissions. She holds a degree in Business Administration with a major in Accounting and a Master's in Business Administration with a

major in Project Planning and Management. Her passion is in managing successfully the implementation of grants.

Donald Kugonza

Makerere University | donkugonza@gmail.com

Donald Rugira Kugonza Akiiki is an animal scientist with BSc Agriculture honours degree (1997), MSc Agriculture in Animal Science (2003), and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Animal Breeding and Genetics (2010) from Makerere University, and a first class Master of Business Administration (MBA) summa cum laude from the prestigious Amity Business School (2016). He is an Associate Professor teaching courses in animal breeding, genetics, animal agriculture and apiculture. He is also a Visiting Professor of Biosciences at Chandigarh University in India. He coordinates the Service Learning Internship Programme, a 15-year collaboration between Makerere University and Iowa State University, USA. His main research interests are in the conservation and performance improvement of African animal genetic resources. He is Chairperson of the Management/Advisory Boards of several national and regional organisations including: the National Livestock Resources Research Institute (NaLIRRI) of NARO; the Fisheries Training Institute (FTI); the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) Technical Committee (TC2/SC14) on Apiculture & Apiculture Products. He is the President of the Association of Uganda Professional Agriculturalists (ASUPA); and is a member of the African Union-InterAfrica Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) Taxonomy Advisory Group and member of the African Technology and Innovation Incubators Advisory Committee (ATIAC); the Uganda Society of Animal Sciences (USAS).

Gerald Kwikiriza

BOKU University | gerald.kwikiriza@boku.ac.at

Gerald Kwikiriza is a PhD candidate at the Institute of Integrative Conservation Biology, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, BOKU, Vienna. He is an evolutionary ecologist with a particular interest in the processes that generate and maintain biodiversity, such as ecological speciation, local adaptation and adaptive radiation. To date, Gerald has published over 15 papers in peer-reviewed journals. His current research project focuses on understanding the ecological and genetic impacts of aquaculture on native tilapia populations in Uganda's lake systems. Prior to joining BOKU, Gerald worked as a research assistant in the Department of Zoology, Entomology and Fisheries Sciences at Makerere University. He holds an International Joint Master's Degree in Limnology and Wetland Management from BOKU University (Austria), Egerton University (Kenya) and IHE Institute for Water Education (Netherlands).

Madrwa Lee Louis Ogawulu

PALM Corps | l.madrwa@palmcorps.org

After graduating from Gulu University in 2019 with a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture, he joined PALM Corps (indigenous NGO working in West Nile - Uganda) in the livelihoods sector (food security and nutrition) as an Agriculture Officer for 3 years (2020-2022) in Palorinya Settlement in Obongi District. In 2023, he was transferred to Rhino Camp Settlement in Terego District to coordinate the Migration III project (funded by Austrian Development Cooperation). In the same year, he was given an additional role to lead Work Package 5 (Facilitating energy access and promoting sustainable use of renewable energy) under the project "Strengthening transformative capacity of Higher Education Institutions for equitable and resilient governance of natural resources in refugee-host community settings in West Nile, Uganda" abbreviated AMUTI project. Over the years, he has developed a strong understanding of natural resource use and food security in refugee-host community settlements, which has helped him and the project team, including PhD students, to access relevant information on gender and natural resource access and use, and to coordinate project activities with Terego District Local Government, Odopi Subcounty, UNHCR and OPM as key stakeholders of the project.

Gloria Lamaro

Gulu University | g.lamaro@gu.ac.ug, glorialamaro2@gmail.com

Dr. Lamaro Gloria is a distinguished scholar with a PhD in Educational Management from Makerere University who she brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her work. As a Lecturer in the Department of Educational Management and Administration at Gulu University, she empowers students to address contemporary educational challenges through innovative course design that emphasizes transformative capacity building and effective pedagogy. Her research interests are diverse but focus on critical areas such as human capital development, quality assurance in higher education, transformative learning outcomes, gender and inclusive pedagogical practices. Dr. Lamaro is not only dedicated to improving educational outcomes, but also passionate about building partnerships that drive meaningful progress. Her innovative research initiatives promise valuable insights into enhancing learning experiences for diverse populations.

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 ten 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, financed by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF), which actively engages its member institutions in joint events and annual calls for funding. She furthermore has acted as a reviewer for the Finnish National Agency for Education (HEI-ICI programme) and the Norwegian Agency for International Cooperation and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education (NORPART programme) on several occasions. Julia Lichtkoppler holds a degree in Political Science.

Harald Meimberg

BOKU University | meimberg@boku.ac.at

Dr. Harald Meimberg is a Professor of Biodiversity Research and Head of the Institute of Integrative Nature Conservation Research at BOKU University in Vienna, Austria. He got his PhD at University of Munich in 2003 and conducted research in different institutions in the USA, Portugal and Germany before moving to Austria in 2014. Here, he developed a diverse programme on molecular biodiversity research including questions on evolutionary genetics, genetic monitoring, and advanced barcoding technologies using different plant and animal models. Since several years he participated on research on African tilapines with a focus on the economically important Nile Tilapia and related species, which is mainly carried out by PhD students supported by OeAD fellowships. He is currently a co-PI in the Africa-UniNet funded project AF-RI_FISH to support Catfish breeding in Uganda.

Ben Belden Mugula

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Ben Belden Mugula is a plant scientist with specific interests in population ecology and genetics, economic botany, value addition, livelihoods and climate change adaptation.

Kyarimpa Christine Mugumya

Kyambogo University | ckyarimpa@kyu.ac.ug, xtineky@gmail.com

Dr. Christine Kyarimpa completed her PhD in Chemistry in 2018 at Makerere University. The title of her research dissertation is “Structure Elucidation and Evaluation of Insecticidal Potency of the Bioactive Compounds”. She holds a Master of Science degree in Chemistry from Makerere University (2007) and a Bachelor of Chemistry degree from Mbarara University of Science and Technology. Her skills include: Training in the use and interpretation of nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy/spectra; analytical techniques; analytical techniques using various methods of extraction and analysis. She began her career as an Assistant Lecturer, in the Faculty of Science at Kyambogo University (2004); served as a Research Assistant in the International Program in Chemical Sciences at MU (Uganda); and taught chemistry and biology at Bweranyangi Girls’ Secondary School (Uganda). She has supervised research projects for undergraduates and postgraduates. She has been trained in the areas of Analytical Chemistry at Protechnik Laboratories (Pretoria, 2016), Science technology and innovation for developing countries (China, 2015); Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical weapons) Associate program (2012). She is currently a Lecturer at the Faculty of Science, Department of Chemistry, Kyambogo University.

Robert Mulebeke

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Dr Mulebeke has over 18 years of professional experience in the curriculum development and implementation for higher education (university) training programmes in the disciplines of soil science, climate change adaptation in agriculture, agricultural education and extension, and horticulture. His research interests are in improving agricultural production and productivity through efficient soil and water management technologies in drylands, with specific focus on horticultural crops. His current research activities include: Climate Smart Agriculture and extension services in Uganda, water use efficiency in cropping systems of the drylands of Eastern Uganda, and modelling soil loss in cropping systems of Uganda’s Lake Victoria basin. He has been involved in sector wide studies such as “Assessing the capacity of smallholder farmers to respond to market price incentives” and “Results Impact Management Study (RIMS) of Community Agricultural Infrastructure, Improvement Programme in Uganda”. He has been extensively involved in outreach activities such as project monitoring and evaluation in both the public and private sectors. Dr Mulebeke has worked skillfully with and led multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural teams on cross-cutting assignments requiring a high degree of creativity, initiative, self-monitoring and commitment to completing tasks on time.

Patrick Musinguzi

Makerere University | musipato7@gmail.com

Dr Musinguzi is currently a Soil Scientist (Agronomy) and Lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Production at Makerere University. He is currently a coordinator of the graduate programmes for the MSc Soil Science and Agrology, and MSc Integrated Watershed Management. He is also the Ugandan country representative of Africa-UniNet. His research interests include in carbon, nutrient cycling, plant nutrition, sustainable land use and soil-water-crop system modelling. He is also a consultant to several local and regional organizations on soil, land, agriculture and ecosystem works. He also loves nature conservation, sports like football, socializing and making friends.

Fiona Mutekanga

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Currently, Fiona Mutekanga is a Lecturer in Ecology and GIS & Remote Sensing and Head of the Department of Environmental Science at Kabale University. She holds a PhD in Environmental Science from Wageningen University (2010). At Kabale University, she is actively involved in two significant research initiatives: the JRS-funded SEBU Project focusing on biodiversity informatics and its applications, and the Darwin-funded Project on Ecosystem Restoration.

Waiswa Wilson Mwanja

Busitema University | wwwwanja@yahoo.com

Waiswa Wilson is the Director of the Maritime Institute at Busitema University. He holds a doctorate degree and a Master of Science degree in Aquatic Ecology from Ohio State University (1996, 2000) and an MSc in International Management from University of Liverpool (2013). He has 33 years of experience in aquatic ecology research, aquatic resources management, climate change and aquatic resources, conservation of aquatic resources, and environmental management, focusing on the sustainable and environmentally responsible utilization of aquatic biodiversity in Africa. He has established a marine science and maritime education programme at Busitema University and served as a Managing Partner of ECRAM, a regional consortium of experts working to enhance aquatic resources' contribution to food and nutrition security. He has 18 years of experience as Senior Executive Manager and Head of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Uganda. He has also travelled extensively and published widely.

Ameria Nabukonde

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Ameria Nabukonde is an enthusiastic, ambitious and result-oriented professional with a strong understanding of global environmental issues. She has extensive experience in environmental knowledge transfer and engagement in environmental projects focusing on climate change and disaster risk reduction, waste management, sustainability, promotion of environmental conservation, green infrastructure, natural resource management. She is also interested in research tailored towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the National Development Plan Vision 2040 (NDP III Vision 2040). She has an in-depth knowledge of environmental legalisation, exceptional oral and written skills along with the ability to consistently demonstrate excellent administrative skills and effective teaching methods to create stimulating learning environment.

Christine Betty Nagawa

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Christine Betty Nagawa is a Lecturer in the Department of Forestry, Biodiversity and Tourism at Makerere University. She works as the technical coordinator for ECSDDevelop in Uganda as well as the overall principal investigator at Makerere University which is the coordinating institution. The aim of this research is looking at microplastics analysis and removal, bioremediation of hydrocarbons and wastewater treatment and bioremediation of PFAs, PCBs and nBFRs. Christine is also a beneficiary of an Early Career Fellowship (2024-2026) from OWSD/TWAS to work on the use of plastic waste and sawdust in the production of building materials with for the construction of low-cost housing in slums and refugee settlements. She is a former OeAD scholar (2011-2015) who obtained her PhD from BOKU University.

Frances Nakakawa

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Frances Nakakawa is a highly accomplished agricultural economist with extensive professional experience. He holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics from Makerere University (2024), where he also earned his MSc in Agricultural Economics in 2007 and a BSc. in Agriculture (Economics Bias) in 2003. Since March 2010, he has served as the Technical Coordinator for Monitoring and Evaluation at the Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) in

Kampala. SAA, a leading international non-profit organization, is dedicated to transforming the lives of smallholder farmers across Mali, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Uganda. Through its initiatives, SAA enhances the capacity of extension agents, ensuring that innovative agricultural knowledge and skills are effectively disseminated within farming communities. The strategic focus lies on regenerative, nutrition-sensitive, and market-oriented agriculture that empowers farmers, enhances food security, and fosters resilient food systems. A seasoned expert in monitoring and evaluation (M&E), he has successfully designed and implemented results-based management systems tailored to agricultural programs. His expertise extends to leading the development of comprehensive M&E strategies that ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of initiatives. His work not only empowers smallholder farmers but also builds capacity for long-term agricultural development.

Helen Nakimbugwe

Kyambogo University | nakimbugwe@yahoo.com

Helen Nakimbugwe is an accomplished professional in animal genetics and breeding, with a Master's and PhD degree from BOKU Vienna. Currently, she serves as a Technical Breeding Manager at the National Animal Genetic Resources Centre and Data Bank (NAGRC&DB) and as a part-time lecturer at Kyambogo University. With over 20 years of experience, Helen has been actively involved in numerous research projects in collaboration with BOKU Vienna, contributing to advancements in animal genetics and sustainable breeding practices.

Agnes Nalunga

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Agnes Nalunga recently completed her Master's degree as part of the APPEAR Project256-CPUg. Her research focused on sustainable waste management, and her thesis was entitled "Resource Recovery from Fecal Sludge Cake through Black Soldier Fly Larvae Composting". This work involved exploring innovative solutions to recover valuable resources while reducing environmental pollution, in line with her passion for environmental sustainability and circular economy practices. Her academic journey has equipped her with a strong foundation in the research and practical application of bio-waste management technologies, which she aims to further advance in her professional career.

Florence Nangendo

Queensland and Leeds Consulting Engineers | fnangendo@gmail.com

Florence has over 20 years of work experience as a Social Safeguards/Development Specialist on numerous development projects looking at the social side of development. She has specific experience in conducting social impact assessments, development of Resettlement Action Plans and implementing including land acquisition, livelihood restoration, support to vulnerable groups, monitoring and evaluation in compliance with social safeguards of the World Bank and African Development Bank. She is a team builder, can work in multi/cultural environments, a mentor and fun to work with.

Hadijah Nansamba

Mountains of the Moon University | hadijah.nansamba@mmu.ac.ug

Hadijah Nansamba is a dedicated scholar and practitioner in public administration, management, and community development, with a strong focus on gender inclusion and social justice. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Public Administration and Management (Gender Specialization) at Uganda Management Institute, where her research explores the Institutionalization of Informal Justice Systems and Mitigation of Gender-Based Violence in Bundibugyo District in Western Uganda. Her academic journey also includes a Master's in Public Administration and Management (2016) and a Bachelor's in Social and Community Development (2011), both from Mountains of the Moon University. Since 2022, Hadijah has been a key project member of AER-Phase II (Strengthening Higher Education, Research, and Science Communication in Agroecology in the Rwenzori Region, Western Uganda). In this initiative, she leads the Gender and Diversity Inclusion work package, ensuring that agroecological practices are inclusive and equitable. The project is a collaborative effort involving Mountains of the Moon University, Sasakawa, Uganda Martyrs University, and BOKU University in Vienna, Austria.

Florence Nansumbi

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Florence is a PhD student based at the Institute of Hydrobiology and Aquatic Ecosystem Management at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna. Her research focuses on the impact of human activities on aquatic biogeochemical cycles and their function as indicators of stream health.

Previously, she worked as a research assistant in the Department of Zoology, Entomology and Fisheries Sciences at Makerere University, Uganda. She also holds an inter-university Master's degree in Marine and Lacustrine

Science and Management from the Vrije Universiteit Brussels, the University of Antwerp and the Ghent University in Belgium.

Pius Nina

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Dr. Nina Pius is a highly experienced scholar in livestock production and livelihood systems, with emphasis on agro-pastoral production systems in East Africa. He has a proven record in developing practice-oriented competence-based teaching programme in agriculture and agroecology for undergraduate students. He has participated and presented original research papers at several regional and international conferences. He is a visiting scholar at the United Nations University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA). He claims over 20 publications in refereed journals and has a passion for connecting students with research opportunities and guiding them to success in their field of study.

Antoney Ndyasiima

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Antoney Ndyasiima holds a BSc in Environmental Science from Makerere University (2015-2018) and a MSc in Limnology and Wetland Management (LWM) under the IPGL programme (2022-2024). His research interests focus on hydrobiology, mainly biomonitoring using benthic macroinvertebrates and physicochemical variables to monitor and manage water quality. He is also fascinated by research areas such as fisheries and aquaculture, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and climate change.

Denis Nono

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Dr Denis Nono holds a PhD in Engineering (University of Botswana) with specialization in Water Resources and Irrigation. He also earned an MSc in Civil Engineering and a BS. in Agricultural Engineering, both from Makerere University. He is a Lecturer and Researcher at Gulu University and has been involved in a number of projects including the “Biosorbents for sustainable wastewater treatment (BioWat)” under Africa-UniNet. Currently, he is involved on a collaborative project on “Biosorption for sustainable small-scale gold mining in Uganda (BioGold)” under APPEAR. His other research interests include climate change and its effects on water resources and precision irrigation. He has published a number of peer-reviewed articles.

Jeremiah Ntambi

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Jeremiah Ntambi is a dedicated and self-motivated student at Kyambogo University, pursuing a Bachelor of Engineering in Power and Automotive Engineering. He is committed to achieving academic excellence while contributing positively to his community. With a passion for automotive technology his goal is to acquire skills and experiences for a successful career in Engineering. At Kyambogo University, he has maintained a strong academic performance while actively participating in extracurricular activities such as the Debate Club, sports, and leadership roles. These experiences have sharpened his communication, teamwork, and problem-solving skills, which are essential for a future in engineering.

George Nyakairu

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Prof. George William Nyakairu Atwoki holds a Bachelor of Science (Industrial Chemistry) and a Master of Science (Chemistry) from Makerere University and a doctorate degree from the University of Vienna, Austria. He is a member of professional bodies such as “The Royal Society of Chemistry”. He has taught at Makerere University College of Natural Sciences, Department of Chemistry in the areas of chemical engineering and industrial chemistry. Nyakairu's scholarly work at Makerere University, as a researcher and consultant, reflects a remarkably broad range of research interests. With over 20 years of experience, he has developed expertise in occupational health and safety in workplaces, geochemical studies, industrial and plant design, and the management of industrial waste and energy. His work also encompasses water resource management and treatment, nanoparticles, circular economy, cleaner production, cyanobacteria, the utilization of salt lake resources, biogas production, clays research, computer applications, and safety in chemical and process industries, as well as supercritical fluid extractions. He has contributed extensively to global research and development through the publication of scientific findings at international conferences and in peer-reviewed journals. His contributions to the scientific community are recognized through his involvement in various research initiatives, including sponsorship by various funding organizations and as a reviewer of scientific papers in reputable journals.

John Peter Obubu

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John Peter Obubu holds a Ph.D. in Water Management (Aquatic Ecosystems) from Addis Ababa University, which he completed in 2022. Earlier in his academic journey, he earned an MSc in Environmental Management (Limnology and Wetland Ecosystems) from IHE in 2010 and a BSc from Makerere University in 2001.

Since 2001 he has been working in the Ministry of Water and Environment in Uganda. As a dedicated limnologist, he focuses on the impacts of climate change and land-use/land-cover changes on water quality. With over two decades of experience in environmental management, John Peter has developed a deep understanding of aquatic ecosystems, contributing to policies and practices that promote environmental sustainability.

Hannington Ochieng

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Hannington Ochieng holds a PhD in Environment and Natural Resources from Makerere University (2018–2021), which has equipped him with advanced knowledge and research skills in the field. Prior to his PhD, he completed an MSc in Environmental Science (Limnology and Wetland Ecosystems) at UNESCO-IHE – Institute for Water Education in Delft, The Netherlands (2004–2006). His training included collaborative studies at the Institute for Limnology in Mondsee, Austria, and the Institute of Botany in Trebon, Czech Republic. He also holds a BBLT (Bachelor of Biomedical Laboratory Technology) (Hons) from Makerere University (1999–2002). Professionally, he has held several key positions. Since 2009, he has worked as the Chief Technician at Busitema University, where he oversees laboratory operations and supports research activities in the Department of Biology. In addition to his role at Busitema University, he was a Part-time Lecturer in the Department of Environmental Science at the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU), Mbale, from 2008–2010 and is presently also working there as Part-time Lecturer. Earlier in his career, he worked at the National Fisheries Resources Research Institute (NaFIRRI) in Jinja, where he began as a Laboratory Assistant and worked his way up through various positions, eventually becoming the Senior Laboratory Technician/Head of Water Quality Studies by 2009.

Emmanuel Okalang

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Emmanuel Okalang is currently a PhD student in Environmental Science at Kabale University in Uganda. In addition to his academic pursuits, he serves as the District Natural Resources Officer for Kwana District Local Government, a position he has held since July 2023. In this role, he is responsible for coordinating the sustainable management, exploitation, and conservation of natural resources within the district. From April 2019 to June 2023, Emmanuel worked as a Project Technical Officer at the Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda. During this time, he provided technical guidance in the execution and implementation of the “Enhancing Resilience of Communities to Climate Change through Catchment Based Integrated Management of Water and Related Resources in Uganda (EURECCCA)” project, contributing to the improvement of community resilience to climate change through integrated water resource management.

William Okello

National Agricultural Research Organisation | wiokello@gmail.com

William has over 18 years OF working experience in water quality research in partnership with thematic multi-disciplinary teams and national, regional and international collaborators to alleviate poverty and promote conservation and sustainable utilisation of the natural resources. He holds a PhD in Natural Sciences from University of Vienna (2001), a Master of Sciences in Environmental Science and Technology with specialisation in Limnology & Wetland Ecosystem Management from UNESCO-IHE The Netherlands /Austria (2004), a Bachelor of Biomedical Laboratory Technology from Makerere University (2002) and several professional courses and awards including leadership. William has provided consultancy services to the Water Management Unit, UNIDO Headquarters in Vienna on hypoxic conditions in the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem and participated in many Environmental Impact Assessments for project development in Uganda. He has participated and presented papers at national and international conferences and has published over 50 papers in peer-reviewed journals, technical reports, conference proceedings, books, and book chapters. Since 2005, William has been an active post-graduate external examiner in three Colleges: Natural Sciences; Agricultural AND Environmental Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity at Makerere University fulfilling his obligation of conducting training and skills development programmes for other research service providers.

Clement Okia

Muni University | clementokia@gmail.com

Clement Okia has over 25-years of professional experience in the field forestry, agroforestry, environment and natural resources. Currently he is an Associate Professor (Agroforestry) in the Department of Environment and

Natural Resources in Muni University, Arua, Uganda. Previously he worked as Senior Scientist and Uganda Country Representative for the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), as a Lecturer in Makerere University, Agroforestry Development Facilitator with ICRAF and Lecturer/Head of Environmental Forestry Department at Nyabyeya Forestry College, Uganda. He holds a PhD in Agroforestry from Bangor University, UK; and both MSc and BSc Forestry from Makerere University, Uganda. His current research and development work focuses on landscape restoration, climate change, nature-based value chains, ecosystem health and biodiversity conservation.

Mark Olokotum

National Fisheries Resources Research Institute | markolokotum@yahoo.com

Mark Olokotum is a Senior Research Officer at the National Fisheries Resources Research Institute (NaFIRRI) where he heads the Fish Habitat Management (FHM) research programme. He has 14 years of experience in fisheries research (aquatic resource assessment and monitoring, fish biology and ecology, and aquatic environment). Mark is keen to understand the interactions between fish stock dynamics, ecosystem functioning, data quality and management actions. He has led several projects to rescue freshwater biodiversity data and made it freely accessible to the public. Mark has worked on several other projects (both with national and international collaborators) that have collected freshwater biodiversity information across the country, and his current interests relate to creating tools for freely sharing this data. Some of the tools he has created include the online freshwater biodiversity data portal for Uganda, where he is the scientific data manager and editor prior to publication. Mark has updated knowledge of the ecological status of northern Lake Victoria, integrated local knowledge in the conservation of threatened fish species, assessed the ecological integrity of affluent rivers of the Albertine graben, and is currently updating the knowledge of the forgotten fish habitats and fishes of Uganda using eDNA. Mark holds a PhD in Zoology from Makerere University, a Master of Science in Limnology and Wetland Management jointly offered by the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, and Egerton University, a second Master of Science in Zoology, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Fisheries and Aquaculture, both from Makerere University, Kampala.

Philip Isaac Omwene

Muni University | pi.omwene@muni.ac.ug

Philip Isaac Omwene is an environmental engineer with extensive academic qualifications and professional experience in water and environmental engineering. He holds a PhD and MSc in Environmental Engineering, specializing in circularity and resource recovery. His expertise lies in circularity and resource recovery, with a focus on reclaiming valuable substances such as phosphorus, boric acid, organic acids, and bioenergy from waste streams, advancing sustainable and circular water management solutions. Since 2020, he has been a Lecturer in Agricultural Engineering at Muni University, Uganda, where he has contributed significantly to research, teaching, and community engagement. He is the work package lead for soil and water conservation in the APPEAR project AMUTI, which aims to strengthen the capacity of higher education institutions for sustainable governance of natural resources in refugee-host community settings in Uganda.

Robert Boyle Onzima

Muni University and BOKU University | robertonzima@gmail.com

Dr. Robert Boyle Onzima is a Lecturer of Animal Science and the Acting Head of the Department of Animal Science. He holds a PhD in Animal Breeding and Genetics, specializing in Molecular Animal Genetics from Wageningen University and Research, Wageningen, the Netherlands. He has an MSc in Animal Science and Aquaculture, also from Wageningen University and Research, and a BSc in Agriculture; specializing in Animal Science from Makerere University. Robert has an extensive experience in agricultural research acquired while working with the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) of Uganda where he spearheaded sustainable utilization of goat genetic resources to improve smallholder farmer livelihoods as well as conservation of animal genetic resources. He has participated in various research undertakings in NARO spanning over 13 years. He has also undertaken various short-term assignments with International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and National Animal Genetic Resources & Data Bank (NAGRC&DB).

Pamela Cindy Nabifo Pali

African Plant Nutrition Institute | p.pali@apni.net

Pamela is currently working with the African Plant Nutrition Institute on two independent projects. The first, the Uganda Carbon and Coffee Project, is developing an impact measurement framework for a carbon project that is beginning in Mitooma and Ntungamo districts. This is a collaborative project between Makerere University, Eco Trust, Producers Direct and the African Plant Nutrition Initiative, that aims to improve the livelihoods and climate resilience of smallholder coffee systems in Uganda. The second, the Fertilizer Crisis, is co-developing a scientific

publication on the fertilizer crisis. The assignment includes data processing and analysis to respond to the fertilizer crisis. In 2023, she was contracted by IFPRI as PRCI Consultant to assess the effectiveness of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy Research, Capacity, and Influence (PRCI's) approach to integrating gender. The report would help partners and IFPRI to understand what changes PRCI partners, namely the core centres, have made to increase the focus on gender equality in their research and institutional practices as a result of their participation in PRCI.

Businge Phelix Mbabazi

Kabale University | pmbusinge@kab.ac.ug

Businge Phelix Mbabazi is an accomplished Associate Professor of Information Technology and Dean of the Faculty of Computing, Library and Information Science at Kabale University, with over 15 years of experience in academia and administration. His career spans roles such as Head of Department at Kampala International University and Muni University, Senior Lecturer at Kabale University, and Visiting Senior Lecturer at UTAB. He holds a PhD in Management Information Systems, along with multiple certifications, and has extensive research experience, with over 20 publications and supervising 10 master's and 3 PhD students to completion. He leads and participates in projects on digital education, innovation, and ICT4D, including roles with the Commonwealth of Learning, UNDP, and APPEAR funded initiatives. He serves as an external examiner, journal editor, and quality assurance assessor and is recognized as one of Uganda's top scientists.

Beatrice Sadina

Muni University | sadina.beatrice@gmail.com

Beatrice Sadina holds a BSc degree in Agricultural Land Use and Management, MSc. Soil Science and is currently a PhD student at Makerere University under the APPEAR project AMUTI hosted at Muni University. Her PhD research is entitled "Fostering soil health improvement for enhanced sorghum productivity in the West Nile Refugee settlements of Uganda. She is a soil scientist with a special interest in soil fertility management and employed by the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) based at the National Semi Arid Resources Research Institute (NaSARRI) Serere District, Eastern Uganda. She has over ten years of experience in conducting on soil fertility management research in the drylands of Uganda, gained while working for NARO at both Bulindi ZARDI and NaSARRI. She has worked with colleagues at NaSARRI to secure research grants, in particular; (1) Harnessing Opportunities for productivity enhancement (HOPE II) funded by ICRISAT, (2) Vegetable Oil Development Project II funded by the government of Uganda through MAAIF, (3) The Collaborative Crop Research Program (CCRP) Sorghum-legume Intensification Project funded by the MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION.

Alex Saturday

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Alex Saturday is a Lecturer and Researcher in the Department of Environmental Sciences at Kabale University. He conducts research using an interdisciplinary systems-based approach, building on his background in environmental science with a focus on water science and aquatic ecology. His research utilises biophysical processes to create sustainable remediation and monitoring programmes for degraded freshwater bodies. Despite the critical applications of his research, his motivation stems from a desire to address fundamental concerns in water science and aquatic ecology. Dr. Saturday is always willing to collaborate with new team members, including MSc students, PhD students, and other researchers. Since 2019, he has been coordinating postgraduate studies in the Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences.

Grace Asiyu Ssanyu

Kyambogo University | assanyu@kyu.ac.ug

Grace Asiyu Ssanyu has over 20 years of a research experience focusing on riverine and lakes' wetlands, water quality and fisheries dynamics, and local community engagement for the wise use and better management of these aquatic resources. She has worked on many collaborative projects with researchers from various local and international institutions. Some of her research works include Ecological requirements of Clarias of Mpologoma river, heavy metal risk assessment in Lake Victoria wetlands and strengthening community-based research for river health in Eastern Africa, among others. She is actively teaching water resources aspects and has supervised many graduate students to completion.

Joseph Ssekandi

Uganda Martyrs University | jssekandi@umu.ac.ug

Joseph Ssekandi is a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Agriculture at Uganda Martyrs University and holds a PhD in Drylands Resources Management from the University of Nairobi. Since 2010 he is one of the pioneers of agroecology training at Uganda Martyrs University. His teaching and learning interests include rangeland health

assessment and monitoring, climate variability and change, and ecosystems-based adaptation, land use and rural development, diversity and management of fragile ecosystems and integration of agroecology practices into social systems. His research interests lie in the area of agroecology, focusing on models and innovations that reduce out-take of endangered ecological species through cultivation, settlements and grazing. Currently he is investigating the domestication of various indigenous species and practices through profiling, multiplying and conservation. He is collaborating in a number of international partnerships to advance research and training across the continent, including 1) Enhanced Fragile Ecosystems Management in Africa 2) Environmental Risk Management under Increasing Extremes and Uncertainty 3) Collaborative Action for Strengthening Training Capacities in Climate Risk and Natural Resource management 4) Scaling Agri-Entrepreneurship and Community Engagement Training in sub-Saharan Africa 5) Model based estimations of climate change impacts on dryland production systems of East Africa 6) Potentials of Agroecological practices in east Africa with a focus on Circular water-energy-nutrient systems.

Elke Stinnig

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Elke Stinnig started her career in 2005 as Programme Officer for the North-South Dialogue Scholarship Programme at Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation (OeAD). She was involved in establishing the Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development (APPEAR) and has since served as a Programme Officer with a particular focus on the scholarship component and gender-related issues. Elke represents the APPEAR Office in various capacities, including serving on the APPEAR Advisory Board and participating in the Forum Cooperation for Sustainable Development in Higher Education Group (S-DHG). Elke Stinnig holds a Master's degree in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, and a Bachelor's and Master's degree in African Studies from the University of Vienna.

Michael Tamale

Kabale University | mtamale@kab.ac.ug

Michael Tamale is an Assistant Lecturer in Computer Science at Kabale University and is currently pursuing a PhD in Computer Science. He has extensive teaching experience, having taught a variety of computer science courses such as automata, cryptology, linear programming, computational mathematics and artificial intelligence. He has supervised numerous undergraduate projects, with a particular focus on topics related to artificial intelligence and machine learning. In addition, he is currently supervising two master's students. Michael has contributed to several publications in collaboration with colleagues and has been involved in the successful execution of three grant-funded projects. His research interests lie in the application of artificial intelligence in various sectors.

Sylvie Muwanga Tebitendwa

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Sylvie M. Tebitendwa holds a PhD in Environmental Biotechnology from Rhodes University, South Africa. Presently, she is affiliated to Busitema University's newly established Maritime Institute, Namasagali Campus as a Lecturer and Head of Department, Maritime Environmental Management. Sylvie is an IPGL alumna having pioneered the LWM program's trimester system from 2009-2011, and completed an MSc Environmental Sciences, specializing in Limnology and Wetland Ecosystems. Sylvie also holds a BSc in Fisheries and Aquaculture from Makerere University, Kampala.

Thaadeo Kahigwa Tibasiima

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Thaadeo Kahigwa Tibasiima completed a Bachelor of Agricultural Land Use and Management from Makerere University in 2007 and a Master of Science in Agroecology from Uganda Martyrs University in 2013. He completed his PhD in Agriculture at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna, in May 2023. Since 2008, Thaddeo has worked on several projects in the Rwenzori region, including the Sustainable Agriculture Trainers Network, Iles de Paix-Mpanga Super Farmer Programme, Organic Denmark. As part of his work, Thaddeo gave several presentations at international conferences on the potential of participatory farmer extension systems and agroecology and worked hand in hand with several research institutions such as Uganda Martyrs University, National Agriculture Research Organisation and Mountains of the Moon University to connect academia with practitioners (farmers) of research findings. Thaddeo has been involved in the establishment of several agroecological farms in the Rwenzori region. He is also linking the APPEAR AER project with SASAKAWA to implement online agro-ecological advice services.

Isaac Tibasiima

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Prof Twesigye is the Coordinator of Doctoral Programmes in the Department of Biological Sciences at Kyambogo University since 2016 to date. He was the project coordinator for the APPEAR Preparatory Funding on Socio-Ecological Water Management in the Lake Victoria Basin. His research interests include biodiversity conservation and sustainable agriculture and food systems.

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Robert Twinamatsiko holds a BSc in Animal Production Technology and Management and an MSc in Livestock Development Planning and Management from Makerere University, Kampala. He also holds a postgraduate Diploma in Project Planning and Management of Uganda Management Institute (UMI). He has over 13 years of experience in agricultural extension work, academia, research, and community engagement. He is currently an Assistant Lecturer at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity, Makerere University. He teaches courses on animal production and apiculture and coordinates the farm/field attachments for students. His research interests focus on developing sustainable agricultural systems that enhance farm sustainability, improve livestock productivity, and uplift community livelihoods.

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