

Ugandan-Austrian University Cooperation

Information and Networking Meeting

16 January 2025

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

[As of 18.11.24, subject to change]

08:30 Registration and Coffee

09:00 Opening and Welcome Remarks

- + Representative of Kyambogo University (tbc)
- + Dr. Simone Knapp, Austrian Ambassador accredited to Uganda
- + Elke Stinnig, Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation (OeAD)

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

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: Dr. Mary Ekyaligonza, Mountains of the Moon University

Including coffee

15:30 Panel Discussion on Conclusions from the Working Groups

- + Dr. Peter Akoll, Makerere University
- + Dr. Mary Ekyaligonza, Mountain of the Moon University
- + Dr. Jeninah Karungi, Makerere University
- + Gerald Kwikiriza, Makerere 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

Speakers

Amon Aine, MSc

[Makerere University and BOKU University](#)

Amon Aine is a Ugandan limnologist specializing in 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 frameworks for river biomonitoring, aiming to address anomalies in assessing freshwater ecological integrity. Beyond academia, he actively supports NGOs by preparing project proposals and offering mentorship.

Dr. Peter Akoll

[Makerere University](#)

He holds a PhD in Natural Sciences from 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.

Dr. Deous Mary Ekyaligonza

[Mountains of the Moon University](#)

Deous Mary Ekyaligonza has over 10 years of experience in implementing agroecology and natural resources management in Uganda. She completed a PhD in Natural Resources and Life Sciences from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna in April 2023. Her PhD focused on organic matter management and cropping systems for soil fertility improvement on smallholder farms in Uganda. The study also addressed the underlying socio-economic conditions that can increase food production. Her doctoral studies were funded by APPEAR in the framework of the project [Strengthening of Higher Education, Research and Community Outreach in Agroecology in the Rwenzori Region, Western Uganda | AER](#). She is currently a lecturer and researcher in the Department of Environment, Natural Resources and Tourism in the Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at Mountains of the Moon University, Uganda.

Dr. Mary Kaggwa

[Kyambogo University](#)

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 research 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 skill set and proven success nationally, regionally, and internationally have enabled her to make significant progress in environmental science.

Prof. Jeninah Karungi, PhD

[Makerere University](#)

Jeninah Karungi is an Associate Professor in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Makerere University (Uganda). She has a BSc. Agriculture (1997), MSc. Crop Science (1999) and a PhD in Agricultural Science (Entomology, 2007). She is an alumna of Makerere University, Imperial College of London (former

Wye College), and Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). 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, Academy of Sciences of the Developing World (TWAS), and Fellow, Uganda National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Katja Kerschbaumer

[Austrian Embassy Development Cooperation in Uganda](#)

Dr. Katja Kerschbaumer is the Head of Office of the Austrian Embassy Development Cooperation in Uganda. She is an Expert on Justice Reform and Governance and has twenty 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 Ph.D. 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.

Prof. Violet Kisakye

[Mountains of the Moon University](#)

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. Her Masters is 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 project 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.

Dr. Simone Knapp

[Austrian Embassy](#)

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.

Gerald Kwikiriza, MSc[Makerere University](#)

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).

Julia Lichtkoppler, MA[Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation \(OeAD\)](#)

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.

Elke Stinnig, MA, MSc[Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation \(OeAD\)](#)

Elke Stinnig started her career in 2005 as programme manager for the North-South Dialogue Scholarship Programme at Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation 2005. She was involved in the establishment of the Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development (APPEAR) and has since worked as a programme officer, with a focus on the scholarship component and gender issues. She also represents the APPEAR Office in the Advisory Board and in the Forum Cooperation for Sustainable Development in Higher Education Group (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.