

## Announcement and Call for Applications

### Summer School on: Sustainability in the FOOD-WATER-ECOSYSTEM Nexus in Sub Saharan Africa in support of the SDG's: Sustainable wetland use

12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> March 2018, Kampala-Uganda

#### 1. Introduction

Water, food security and ecosystem services issues are at the epitome of the Global Development Agenda 2030. These issues are especially more critical in Sub Saharan Africa where huge challenges culminating from rapidly changing demographics, climatic change land use conversions and land degradation are prevalent constraining social economic transformations and livelihood improvements. The planned summer school in 2018 under the topic “Sustainability in the FOOD-WATER-ECOSYSTEM Nexus in Sub Saharan Africa” is aimed at positively contributing to the global development agenda. It is envisaged that two more summer schools will be conducted in 2019 and 2020 to consolidate the issues covered and strengthen cooperation between the participants. The summer school will contribute to bridging the gap between the demand and supply side of the knowledge through the lens of the food-water-ecosystem nexus for resilient and sustainable systems. It builds on novel and emerging knowledge in the themes of the focus as opposed to the prevalent linear and isolated approaches. The summer schools are planned with a focus on three main SDG target 15.1 terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems: (1) wetlands, (2) mountainous regions, and (3) dry lands. The fourth target ecosystem forests serves as a cross-cutting theme for all three target ecosystems taking into account scaling issues on ecosystem-based approaches to river basin management. The summer school (s) is also expected to initiate and nurture a group of young scientists from Africa and Germany along issues of common interests that propel sustainability and accelerated development in Sub Saharan Africa.



## 2. Target group

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The summer school targets young and emerging scientist at postdoctoral, doctoral and early career levels whose works aligns well with the thematic focus. According to the overall theme of the summer school series on the Food-Water-Ecosystem Nexus in Sub Saharan Africa with a focus on sustainable wetland ecosystems for the announced first summer school in Kampala 2018 the three thematic subjects are the following:

- Wetlands and food security (SDG2): agronomy, socio-economy, applied agriculture and associated subjects
- Wetlands and sustainable water management (SDG 6): catchment hydrology, hydrogeology, water and matter fluxes and associated subjects
- Wetlands and sustainable ecosystem management (SDG 15): ecology, ecosystem services, biodiversity, conservation and associated subjects

The applicants should be based in Sub Saharan Africa and Germany. Females are particularly encouraged to participate in the summer school.

## 3. Structure of the summer school

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The summer school will be implemented in seven days. It will be organized along the following structure

*Impulse presentations:* The impulse presentations will be given by senior scientists and experts of international reputation and will cover topical issues related to water, wetlands, food security and ecosystem services. The presentations will be anchored in relevant sustainable development goals.

*Presentations:* All participants are required to give a presentation based on their research, which will be either oral or poster. The choice of whether oral or poster will be clarified to participants upon selection. Applicants are therefore required to submit a 250 word abstract tailored to one of the subjects of the summer school.

*Group Discussions:* There will be group discussions involving all participants, senior scientists and experts participating in the summer school. The group discussions will be facilitated by experts and senior scientist and are geared at generating critical issues for research and networking.

*Field visit and an excursion:* A field visit will be undertaken in an instrumented catchment in central Uganda, which is a supersite for agronomic, hydrological, soil, ecology and geological inland valley studies. An excursion will also be conducted in a floodplain in Eastern Uganda.

## 4. Requirements

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- a) Be a PhD student, Postdoctoral student or early career scientist from Sub Saharan Africa or Germany
- b) An application letter with full contact details (email and telephone)
- c) An abstract of maximum 250 words on undertaken research related to one of the subjects of the summer school.
- d) Brief motivation letter (maximum 2 pages) explaining your interest in the summers school
- e) Brief CV (Maximum 2 pages)

## Application Procedure and Deadline

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Your application materials should be sent as one integrated PDF file by email to: [sdg@giub.uni-bonn.de](mailto:sdg@giub.uni-bonn.de). The deadline for submission of application materials is **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018**. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

Successful applicants will be informed of the outcome by Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

## Funding

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The summer school is funded by the Volkswagen Foundation under the Knowledge for Tomorrow – Cooperative Research programme. The funding will cover travel expenses, accommodation, VISA and meals for selected participants from Africa and Germany.

## Contacts

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More information about the summer school can be obtained from

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