

First International Conference on Enhancing Resilience to Climate and Ecosystem Changes in Semi-arid Africa

UNIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, TAMALE, GHANA
AUGUST 6- 7, 2014

BACKGROUND

Coping with global climate and ecosystem changes requires developing countries with weak socioeconomic and resource management regimes to devise adaptation strategies. The project “Enhancing Resilience to Climate and Ecosystem Changes in Semi-Arid Africa: an Integrated Approach” aims to develop integrated strategies to build a management base that is resilient to the changes and maintains certain socioeconomic and resource levels. Based on the research on climate change events, ecosystems, and governance in the underdeveloped, semi-arid northern Ghana, the project suggests that effective adaptation strategies involve addressing the issues of rural development as well as floods and droughts risk management along flat plains and the Black Volta River. These should in turn, alleviate the economic disparity between the north and the rapidly growing southern Ghana.



The project investigates climate and ecosystem changes on major crops through field survey and modelling, assesses impacts of the changes on agriculture and rural development and local capacity to cope with flooding and droughts. The research process further leads to development of integrated strategies that enhance resilience of farming communities in northern Ghana to climate and ecosystem changes and eminent disasters. These strategies will eventually crystallize into the "Ghana Model", which will be applicable to semi-arid regions across Africa.



WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

In this conference, **we are soliciting papers from researchers that feed into our current research thematic focus of the collaborative research in Ghana and Japan.**

Suggested topics include the following thematic areas:

Theme 1: Forecast and assessment of climate change impact on agroecosystem (Agroecosystem Resilience):

- To assess impact on agricultural production/ecosystem
- To utilize local knowledge/ technology/ species and variety in addressing climate change impacts
- To maintain diverse ecosystem services

- To enhance resilience - examples of successful interventions/approaches

Theme 2: Risk assessment of extreme weather hazards and development of adaptive resource management methods (Engineering Resilience):

- To use existing resources more efficiently
- To educate local professionals/technical experts
- To suggest the way forward in developing local resources in order to cope with increasing future demands

Theme 3: Implementing capacity development programs for local communities and professionals (Social Institutions-Technical Capacity Development) :

- To strengthen governance, technical capacity at local and national level
- To support self-help, cooperative organization, local empowerment
- To ensure continuity of structures and processes developed during project implementation phase
- To build local adaptation and capacity tools for enhanced resilience within communities

To submit an abstract for consideration, please submit it from the conference website (https://www.supportoffice.jp/c_africa_conf2014/paper), or email to conference office (paper_c_africa_conf2014@supportoffice.jp) with the following information:

1. List of a lead author and coauthors and their institutional affiliations
2. An abstract of 300 words or less.
3. Request to present either a poster or oral presentation.
4. Suggested thematic topic category (Theme 1, 2, 3).
5. Information (title, affiliation, country, email, tel, postal address) on the corresponding author

* Multiple submissions by the same author(s) are allowed, but please make separate submission requests.

Presenters must register before the end of June to be included in conference program.

Important dates

- Abstracts due: **15 May, 2014**
- Conference registration opens: **01 April, 2014**
- Outcome notified: **30 May, 2014**
- Extended abstract (about 1,000 words) due: **30 June, 2014**

A limited number of **Travel Fellowships** will be made available exclusively to students and post docs from Ghana and neighboring countries whose paper or poster submission is accepted. Travel Fellowship applicants must first submit a paper or poster before submitting a Travel Fellowship application.

Selected papers will be peer reviewed and published in **a special journal issue and/or an edited volume of e-book series on sustainability science from Springer.**

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT

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