

## Newsflash of the Global Change Research Network in African Mountains



June 2008

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### Content:

- Progress Report of the ICSU Regional Office for Africa
- Introducing the African Highlands Initiative
- Publication of the proceedings of the Kampala Workshop on a "Global Change Research Network for African Mountains"
- International Conference on: Traditional Forest-related Knowledge and Sustainable Forest Management in Africa
- Appel à communication pour le colloque « Savanes africaines en développement : innover pour durer » organisé par le Prasac

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### PROJECTS AND ORGANIZATIONS

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#### **Progress Report of the ICSU Regional Office for Africa, 2005 - 2008**

<http://www.icsu-africa.org/>

#### **Priority areas:**

ICSU Regional Committee for Africa (RCA) identified 4 priority areas for sub-Saharan Africa. The ICSU Regional Office for Africa (ICSU ROA) has successfully coordinated and managed the preparation, publication, dissemination of the 3 concomitant Science Plans on Sustainable Energy, Natural and Human induced Hazards and Disasters; and Health and Human Well-being.

The fourth science plan on Global Environmental Change (Including Climate Change and Adaptation) in sub-Saharan Africa will be produced and disseminated in the next two months.

The corresponding projects in the making (final stage) are:

SE 01: Development of energy models and scenarios for sub-Saharan Africa.

SE 02: Renewable Energies – Biofuels for Africa (electronic library and knowledge network in biofuels; biofuels technology – quality, characterization footprint; and adaptation).

HD 01: Geohazards in sub-Saharan Africa (within the framework of the UNproclaimed International Year of Planet Earth).

HD 02: Hydro-meteorological hazards and disasters in sub-Saharan Africa.

#### **Project: Mobilizing and Engaging African Diaspora In Science and Technology For Africa**

Science and Technology provides the foundation for innovation and technological development, which will have a significant impact in the socio-economic development of Africa.

Accelerating the capacity and capabilities of science and technology in Africa by harnessing the skills and knowledge in Science and Technology will require collaboration, partnership and networking of all stakeholders. African nationals abroad involved in Science and Technology are one of the key stakeholders that need to be mobilized and engaged in the advancement of Science and Technology in Africa.

ICSU ROA and National Research Foundation (NRF) South Africa awarded AfricaRecruit, the Africa Diaspora Brain-Gain project. Please use the following link to find out more about the project: <http://africarecruit.com/diasporainscienceandtechnology/index.php>

## **The African Highlands Initiative (AHI)**

<http://africanhighlands.org/>

The African Highlands Initiative, a regional research program of ASARECA (the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa) hosted by the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) aims at improving livelihoods and reverse natural resource degradation in intensively cultivated highlands of eastern Africa. AHI is a consortium of eastern African and international research organizations working with local communities, local governments and development partners in Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Madagascar. AHI works where the people and landscapes in the densely populated highlands of Eastern Africa are under pressure. Population growth, fragile landscapes, limited economic opportunities and the rapid pace of climatic, political-economic and cultural change have outpaced people's coping strategies, causing water shortages, deforestation, soil erosion, unreliable rainfall, increased incidence of pests and diseases and increased poverty. The target eco-region faces the following major challenges at local and institutional levels:

- Under-utilized potential of local people to manage their resources sustainably and to articulate their demands
- A breakdown in natural resource governance
- Conventional research approaches that are not addressing the complexity of modernization processes, livelihood-NRM links and farmer demand
- Limited capacity of researchers and their organizations and policy makers to respond to challenges of working in an integrated, participatory manner

AHI's core role as an innovator is to develop innovative methods and approaches for participatory "integrated natural resource management" (INRM) through their development and testing in pilot sites, cross-site synthesis and regional dissemination and institutionalization.

Please use this link to read more: <http://mri.scnatweb.ch/networks/mri-africa/african-highlands-initiative.html>

or go to the AHI website

<http://africanhighlands.org/>

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## EVENT DOCUMENTATION

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### **Global Change Research Network in African Mountains: Launching Workshop 23-25 July 2007, Kampala, Uganda**

The Centre for Development and Environment of the University of Bern, Switzerland, and the Mountain Research Initiative have edited the workshop proceedings.

The report can be downloaded from the MRI website at

[http://mri.scnatweb.ch/events/mri-events/gcrn\\_am-kampala-workshop-july-2007.html](http://mri.scnatweb.ch/events/mri-events/gcrn_am-kampala-workshop-july-2007.html)

To order a hard-copy please contact the MRI office <mailto:mri@giub.unibe.ch>

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## EVENTS

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First Announcement and Call for Papers:

### **International Conference on: Traditional Forest-related Knowledge and Sustainable**

## Forest Management in Africa

13-16 October 2008, Accra Ghana

The conference will cover the following specific topics:

- Context and history of the relationship between formal forest knowledge/'scientific' forestry and traditional forest knowledge with respect to forest management, including community participatory approaches in Africa.
- Experiences related to resolution of conflicts between formal science and traditional knowledge and traditional management practices, and evaluation of lessons learned from case studies on ways to foster mutually beneficial collaboration and exchange of knowledge.
- Local and indigenous community priorities for scientific study in relation to forest resource management.
- Best practices for including both traditional knowledge and western science in forestry education, research, resource assessments, and forest management activities, based on studies of how this has been done successfully, or how and why attempts have failed.

### SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS:

Priority will be given to papers or presentations done jointly between researchers and local community members or traditional forest knowledge practitioners. If you wish to present a paper, or exhibit a poster, please send your abstract of 300-500 words to:

Prof. Alfred Oteng-Yeboah

Department of Botany

University of Ghana

P.O.Box LG 55

Legon, Accra, Ghana,

Fax.No. +233 21 77 76 55

or attach to an e-mail in MSWord file (.doc), Adobe Acrobat (.pdf), or plain text format to: <mailto:otengyeboah@yahoo.co.uk>

Abstracts should include: full names, addresses of authors, and e-mail address for the corresponding author. The abstract should clearly describe the content and major findings and conclusions of the proposed paper/presentation and its relationship to the specific topics or objectives of the conference.

### Deadlines:

Submissions of abstracts: June 30, 2008

Notification of acceptance: July 31, 2008

### First call:

#### **Appel à communication pour le colloque « Savanes africaines en développement : innover pour durer » organisé par le Prasac**

Le Pôle Régional de Recherche Appliquée au Développement des Savanes d'Afrique Centrale (PRASAC) organise le colloque « Savanes africaines en développement : innover pour durer ». L'objectif de cette rencontre est de présenter un état des travaux de recherche-développement conduits dans les zones de savanes d'Afrique subsaharienne, en rapport avec les mutations actuelles et de préparer l'avenir de ces zones. Le colloque se déroulera à Garoua au Cameroun du 21 au 24 avril 2009. Vous trouverez ci-dessous l'appel à communication.

<http://www.prasac-cemac.org/Brochure%20colloque%202009%20-%20Def.pdf>

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## WEBSITE

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Please send us images, texts, links, etc. for the website of the Global Change Research Network in African Mountains!

<http://mri.scnatweb.ch/content/category/3/61/80/>

yours sincerely  
Claudia Drexler

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Communication and Event Management

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