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FIRST CIRCULAR

TROPILAKES

Tropical lakes in a changing environment



What?

TropiLakes2015 Conference: Tropical lakes in a changing environment

Website?

<https://geoweb.ugent.be/tropilakes2015/>

Focus?

Tropical lakes (natural and man-made), environmental change impacts:

climate, water balance, hydrology, water management, geomorphology and soils, wetlands, catchment management, human impact, land use changes, land degradation, soil erosion, sediment budget, soil and water conservation, ecosystem services, aquatic ecology, hydropower, impact of large dams, food production chain, waste(water) management

When?

Wednesday 23 to Tuesday 29 September 2015

Where?

Bahir Dar, Lake Tana shore, Ethiopia

Why?

Natural and man-made lakes in the tropics play a crucial role for the livelihood of many people. Due to climatic and land use changes, these water bodies may be threatened : e.g. increased water demand or climate change leading to a shift in the water balance and lake levels, increased land degradation and soil erosion in the riparian zones leading to sediment pollution and deposition in the lakes, thereby reducing their storage capacity, change in ecosystem services and hence the livelihood for the people that depend on these lakes.



CONFERENCE THEMES

At the congress, the following themes will be discussed:

1. Climate change impacts on water balance, hydrology and meteorology of tropical lakes;
2. Land use changes and their impacts on geomorphology and soils: land degradation, soil erosion, sediment budget, soil and water conservation;
3. Ecosystem services, water quality and aquatic ecology of shallow lakes;
4. Tropical lakes as palaeo-environmental archives;
5. Impacts of dams on downstream rivers, water bodies and livelihood;
6. Agricultural development; food and fiber production chains; landscape intensification;
7. Waste (water) management and impact on lakes; and
8. Aquatic biodiversity in relation to large-scale water developments.



CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS

Abstract submission deadline: 31 May 2015

All submissions must be sent as Word files to sil.lanckriet@ugent.be

Submission of Abstracts for Presentations and Posters

Abstracts can be submitted for peer review and can be accepted for oral or poster presentation. Please indicate your preference when submitting. A selection of accepted papers will be published in an international peer-reviewed journal as a special issue. (Journal of Hydrology has been solicited).

Format:

Abstract is limited to one A4-size page, text only without any figures or tables. Top, bottom, left, and right margins 25 mm.

Title: Upper and lower case, left justified, Times font, 14 pt bold.

Contributors' names: Upper and lower case, left justified, first name first, surname last, Times font, 11 pt.

Affiliation: Upper and lower case, left justified, Times font, 10 pt. Numbered

Superscripts should be used to indicate the affiliation of each contributor.

E-mail address can be added in parentheses at the end of the contributor's affiliation.

Main text: Single-spaced text, Times 10 pt font, no section headings.



VENUE

The symposium will be held at Bahir Dar University in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. Bahir Dar is about 320 km northwest of the capital city, Addis Ababa, and has several daily air links with Addis.

The city lies adjacent to Lake Tana, the largest lake in the country.

“Lake Tana lies in a wide depression in the Ethiopian Plateau and with an area of 3077 km². The lake is shallow with an average depth of 9 m. The outlets of the lake are the Blue Nile (natural surface outflow at the southern shore) and a tunnel hydropower outlet; its outflow contributes about 7% of the Blue Nile flow at the Ethio-Sudanese border. Lake Tana basin is 15,077 km² and according to water balance studies using measured discharge in the gauged catchments and assuming a runoff coefficient of 0.22 for the ungauged ones, about 93% of the annual inflow to the lake is estimated to come from four large rivers: Gilgel Abbay, Megech, Gumara and Rib Rivers.” (Mekete et al., 2014)



PROGRAMME

Pre-conference excursion, jointly with local stakeholders: Wednesday 23 to Friday 25 September 2015.

TropiLakes2015: Friday 25 September (evening) to Tuesday 29 September 2015:

Friday evening 25 September: icebreaker and registration

Saturday morning 26 September: official opening and beginning of sessions

Saturday afternoon: conference sessions (oral and posters)

Sunday 27 September: **mid conference excursion** by boat on Lake Tana.

Monday 28 September: conference sessions (oral and posters)

Monday evening: conference dinner

Tuesday morning 29 September: summary of sessions, networking meetings

Tuesday afternoon: official closure of the conference



EXCURSIONS

Pre-conference excursion, jointly with local stakeholders: Wednesday 23 to Friday 25 September 2015.

Extensive visit of Lake Tana basin, including major rivers, monitoring stations, catchments, lake shores, wetlands, forests, hot springs, research sites of the Wase-Tana project. Visit of Tana-Beles hydropower plant, including Beles valley (artificial outflow of Lake Tana). A separate price will be charged, including two overnights (Bahir Dar and Gondar).

Mid-conference excursion, Sunday 27 September: Excursion by boat on Lake Tana: along the eastern lake shore to the delta of Gumara River – Dek island (transect walk through the particular agro-ecosystem of the island; visit of monastery) – Zege peninsula (visit of coffee plantations and historical church) – participation in the traditional Meskel bonfire



REGISTRATION FEE AND FUNDING

The registration fee should be paid online, by the special application on our TropiLakes website: geoweb.ugent.be/tropilakes2015.

	Early bird rate, received before 31 May 2015	Normal rate, received before 31 July 2015	Late on-site rate, after 1 August 2015
International	300 €	400 €	500 €
PhD student	150 €	200 €	250 €
Ethiopian	400 ETB	500 ETB	600 ETB
Accompanying person (excursion, conference dinner, all catering)	150 €	150 €	150 €
Pre-congress excursion	150 €	150 €	150 €

Funding has been requested from VLIR-UOS to possibly ensure the participation of relevant African scientists (from Ethiopia and from some other African VLIR-UOS partner countries). The list of these partner countries can be found here: <http://www.vliruos.be/en/countries/overview/>.

Only applicants who submit a positively evaluated abstract may qualify for support through this INCO project. Please indicate your request for funding when submitting your abstract.

WASE-TANA

This conference will be the closing event of the WaSe-Tana project. WaSe-Tana is a demand-driven action research project to (1) increase the understanding of hydrology and sediment in order to develop tools and strategies that would contribute to proper planning and management of land and water resources of the Lake Tana basin, and hence (2) enhance the capacity of Bahir Dar University and local institutions and to promote integration among stakeholders dealing with land and water issues. The project, funded by VLIR-UOS is carried out by Bahir Dar University, UGent, KU Leuven and the Amhara Regional Bureaus of Water Resource Development as well as Environmental Protection and Land Use Administration.

The website of Wase-Tana: <http://geoweb.ugent.be/physical-geography/research/wase-tana>

For practical questions regarding the conference and call for papers, please contact Sil Lanckriet at sil.lanckriet@ugent.be

For questions regarding registration and payment, please contact Paul Schapelynck at paul.schapelynck@ugent.be



The second circular is expected by 1 December 2014.

ORGANIZERS

Organizers

- Wase-Tana project
- Ghent University
- Bahir Dar University
- KU Leuven
- Amhara Regional Bureau of Water Resources,
- Amhara Regional Bureau of Environmental Protection and Land Administration
- VLIR-UOS
- International Water Management Institute

Organising committee

Prof. Dr. Jan Nyssen (Ghent University, geography – Northern Ethiopia)

Prof. Dr. Enyew Adgo (BDU, soil science – Lake Tana)

Prof. Dr. Jean Poesen (KU Leuven, geography)

Prof. Dr. Niko Verhoest (Ghent University, hydrology)

Prof. Dr. Seppe Deckers (KU Leuven, land management)

Drs. Mekete Dessie (BDU and Ghent University, hydrology – Lake Tana)

Drs. Sil Lanckriet (UGent, Belgium, environmental changes – Lake Ashenge)

Drs. Hanibal Lemma (BDU and Ghent University, sediment transport – Lake Tana)

Ms. Birtukan Tamiru (Wase-Tana project, VLIR-UOS and Bahir Dar University)

Mr. Deribew Fante (Wase-Tana project, VLIR-UOS and Bahir Dar University)

Ms. Selamawit Girmay (Graben project, VLIR-UOS and Mekelle University)

Mr. Stefan Strohmeier (University NRS Vienna, Austria, hydrology - Lake Tana basin)

Dr. Wassie Anteneh (BDU, fisheries – Lake Tana)

Dr. Yihenew Gebreselassie (BDU, soil science – Lake Tana basin)

Mr. Goraw Goshu (BDU, water quality management – Blue Nile Water Institute)

Dr. Getachew Fisseha (BDU, soil science – Lake Tana basin)

Dr. Getachew Alemayehu (BDU, agronomy – Lake Tana basin)

Mr. Seleshie Mesfine (Bureau of Water Resource Development – Amhara region)

Mr. Melesachew Fente (Bureau of EPLU Administration – Amhara Region)

Dr. Louise Karlberg (Stockholm Environment Institute – biomass for cooking and livestock)

Dr. Petra Schmitter (International Water Management Institute – reservoir/dam operations)

Dr. Simon Langan (International Water Management Institute – Head of Addis Office)

Scientific committee

Prof. Dr. Jan Nyssen (Ghent University, geography – Northern Ethiopia)

Prof. Dr. Enyew Adgo (BDU, soil science – Lake Tana)

Prof. Dr. Jean Poesen (KU Leuven, geography)

Prof. Dr. Niko Verhoest (Ghent University, hydrology)

Prof. Dr. Seppe Deckers (KU Leuven, land management)

Prof. Dr. Didas Kimaro (Sokoine University, land and water - Lake Victoria shores)

Prof. Dr. Feleke Woldeyes (president Arba Minch University – Lake Abaya and Chamo)

Prof. Dr. Luc De Meester (KU Leuven, Belgium, aquatic ecology – many tropical lakes)

Prof. Dr. Steven Loiselle (Siena University, Italy - EAGLO = Great Lakes Observatory)

Prof. Dr. Tammo Steenhuis (Cornell University, USA & BDU, hydrology - Lake Tana)

Prof. Dr. Valentijn Pauwels (Monash University, Australia, hydrology - Lake Tana basin)

Prof. Dr. Andreas Klik (BOKU, Vienna)

Dr. Amaury Frankl (Ghent University, Belgium, hydrogeomorphology)

Dr. Eltigani E. Abdelgalil (Water Man. and Irrigation Institute, University of Gezira, Sudan)

Dr. Eshete Dejen (IGAD, Djibouti, fisheries)

Dr. Ferdas Ziadat (ICARDA, solicited)

Dr. Gete Zeleke (Water and Land Resource Centre (WLRC), Addis Ababa)

Dr. Irit Eguavoen (University of Bonn, Social Anthropology/ African Studies – Blue Nile)

Dr. Leo Nagelkerke (Wageningen University, Netherlands, aquatic ecology - Lake Tana et al.)

Dr. Negash Wagesho (Arba Minch University, Ethiopia, hydrology – Lake Abaya and Chamo)

Dr. Nigussie Haregeweyn (Tottori University, Japan, reservoir catchments in Ethiopia)

Dr. Seifu A. Tilahun (BDU, hydrology – Lake Tana basin)

Dr. Teklu Erkossa (International Water Management Institute, Addis Ababa – solicited)

Dr. Tilahun Amede (ICRISAT, intensification of agricultural landscapes)

Dr. Wondimu Bayu (ICARDA, agronomy – Lake Tana basin)

Mr. Birlew Abebe (Lake Tana Basin Authority – solicited)

Mr. Tadesse Adgo (NABU – Lake Tana biosphere – solicited)