

SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (SNRM):
Enhancing Knowledge and Skills of Young African Scientists for a Better Tomorrow

Call for Applications for SNRM Summer Schools

Session 1: 28 July-11 August 2019
University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin

Context: Africa's natural resources are among those with the highest indices of degradation and mismanagement. Timely data collection, analysis and dissemination of scientific information are fundamental for interventions in managing natural resources. Investing in young scientists who are able to commit to managing the resources sustainably is important. The primary objective of the summer school is to initiate the process of building a critical mass of skilled and competent young natural resource scientists in Africa through training and mentorship. It seeks to enhance the knowledge base and skills of passionate young scientists (MSc and early PhD students) involved in natural resources management (agriculture, forestry and nature conservation) and adaptation to climate change and who need to enhance their skills in handling the data and using it to inform management and policy. This will be implemented in three Summer School sessions (2019, 2020, and 2021) with 6 modules: 1) Data management for sustainable use of natural resources, 2) Geospatial techniques and tools for data collection and improved natural resources assessment, 3) Data analysis using R, 4) Scientific communication and management strategies in SNRM, 5) Dynamics social process analysis – Hands on with NetLogo and 6) Applied system thinking in natural resources management using R & VENSIM. The current call for the Summer School applications is focused on modules 1 and 2 designated Session 1 (see details on page 2).

Organizers: The African Network for Natural Resources, the University of Abomey Calavi (Benin) and the Leibniz Universität - Hannover (Germany) with financial support from the Volkswagen Foundation (Germany).

Venue and dates: University of Abomey-Calavi (Benin), 28 July to 11 August 2019.

Target: MSc and early PhD students with less than 35 years of age from any University/research institution in sub-Saharan Africa or Germany with an interest in natural resources management.

Participation and Scholarships: The course is fully funded and open to **20 African students undertaking** MSc and PhD studies. Scholarships will include the costs of air ticket, accommodation, meals, visa and transportation. However, participants will have to cover the cost for their travel health insurance.

Module description Session 1:

- **Module 1. Data management for sustainable use of natural resource:** New approaches of data collection and processing in various fields, field and laboratory measurements, statistical techniques and storage of large datasets, archiving, and dissemination using various platforms, types of natural resources in Africa, monitoring techniques in conservation, climate change and management of natural resource, collecting time series data, data standardization, storage, protection maintenance and quality control, data workflows and data governance.
- **Module 2. Geospatial techniques and tools for data collection and improved natural resource assessment.** Application of mobile devices in geospatial data collection, application of unmanned aerial vehicles in monitoring natural resources, ODK applications and open source server for geospatial data collection, Geographical information system (GIS) approaches, using open source software e.g. QGIS.

SNRM summer schools will be delivered by experts carrying out state of the art research in Africa. The lectures will include tutorials and practical exercises. Participants will be required to present their research projects.

Language: The lectures will be delivered in English. Participants are expected to be fluent in writing and speaking English.

How to apply

Students interested in attending the school are recommended to fill the online application form and submit the following documents in English through the online system www.afnetnr.org from 5th February 2019:

- Curriculum vitae (maximum 2 pages)
- Motivation letter (maximum 1 page)
- Evidence of University enrollment or affiliation to research institute
- Reference letter from the academic /research supervisor (must be signed);
- 2 pages summary of MSc/ PhD proposal.

Important dates

Application deadline: **5th March 2019.**

Announcement of accepted applicants: **19th April 2019.**

Confirmation of attendance by selected participants: **31st April 2019.**

Session 1 dates: **28 July-11 August 2019**

Further information available at www.afnetnr.org and from

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