

MEET A GEC RESEARCHER

Genene Mulugeta

Genene Mulugeta got one of the 2013 SSEESS Research Links grants. Focus areas were the Grand Challenges of sustainability in the context of the three ICSU regional offices.

How is your research linked to Global Environmental Change (GEC)?

My research is on the impact of hazards and disasters, focusing on Africa. I am currently facilitating the build-up of a research consortium between African and Swedish universities on disaster risk.

Why are you interested in GEC research?

I am interested in GEC research because the current development models are not sustainable. Thus, to make the world more sustainable it is necessary to build capacity on GEC, especially in the less developed regions of the world.

What are the biggest challenges for you when working on GEC topics?

The biggest challenges are how to:

- synthesise knowledge on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) as part of GEC research.
- identify knowledge gaps on DRR for implementing adaptation and mitigation measures in the African context.

Job title: Project Leader: Sustainable Africa University Network

Organisation: Baltic University Programme, Centre for Sustainable Development, Uppsala University

Research area: Hazards and disasters and sustainable development

Favourite research trip: ICSU-ROA trip to Soweto, South Africa



- get funding to advance the research, as African countries in general are not in a position to provide this type of funding.
- develop actionable science, data, information, tools, and training.

Which of your projects did SSEESS support, and how?

SSEESS supported the project for reducing risk on hazards and disasters in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2013. The money was spent on arranging a workshop in Pretoria. This was important because it helped bring together African researchers to address GEC issues. It also helped to initiate writing a research proposal on "Building interdisciplinary research capacity in hazards and disasters in Africa".

Read more about the SSEESS Research Links and ICSU on the next page





SSEESS

Research Links

This grant aims to enhance the collaboration between scientists affiliated with a Swedish research institute and scientists from developing countries who together conduct research on Global Environmental Change (GEC). This grant is expected to help such North-South collaborations to have a long legacy.

The focus areas of SSEESS Research Links can differ from year to year. The 2013 grants supported especially those research collaborations that address the Grand Challenges of sustainability in the context of the three ICSU regional offices: Africa, Asia and Pacific, and/or Latin America and the Caribbean.

SSEESS wants to increase the participation of Swedish researchers such as Genevieve Mulugeta in international GEC programmes.

More information at
www.sseess.org/grants-and-more



ICSU

The International Council for Science (ICSU) aims to strengthen international science for the benefit of society. Part of that mission involves supporting research programmes that address Global Environmental Change (GEC) issues. These programmes provide the scientific basis for many large international assessments and conventions, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Moreover, ICSU's three Regional Offices in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean support scientific networks in their regions. They also facilitate the participation of scientists from developing countries in the activities of ICSU and its members, and ensure that the ICSU strategy and activities are responsive to the needs of developing countries. You will find more information about such activities on the website of each of ICSU's three Regional Offices.

In regard to GEC issues, ICSU is one of the sponsors of the international research initiative Future Earth.



More information at
www.futureearth.org



SSEESS

The Swedish Secretariat for Environmental Earth System Sciences (SSEESS) is a collaborative partnership between the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, FORTE, Formas, Vetenskapsrådet, and Sida.



On behalf of the members of the SSEESS partnership, the Secretariat acts as a Swedish link to Global Environmental Change (GEC) Research.

As a Swedish link to GEC research, SSEESS aims to increase the participation of Swedish researchers in international GEC research programmes and organisations.

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