



African Climate and Environment Center
Future African Savannas

ANNUAL PHOTO REPORT

2025



Global Centres
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service





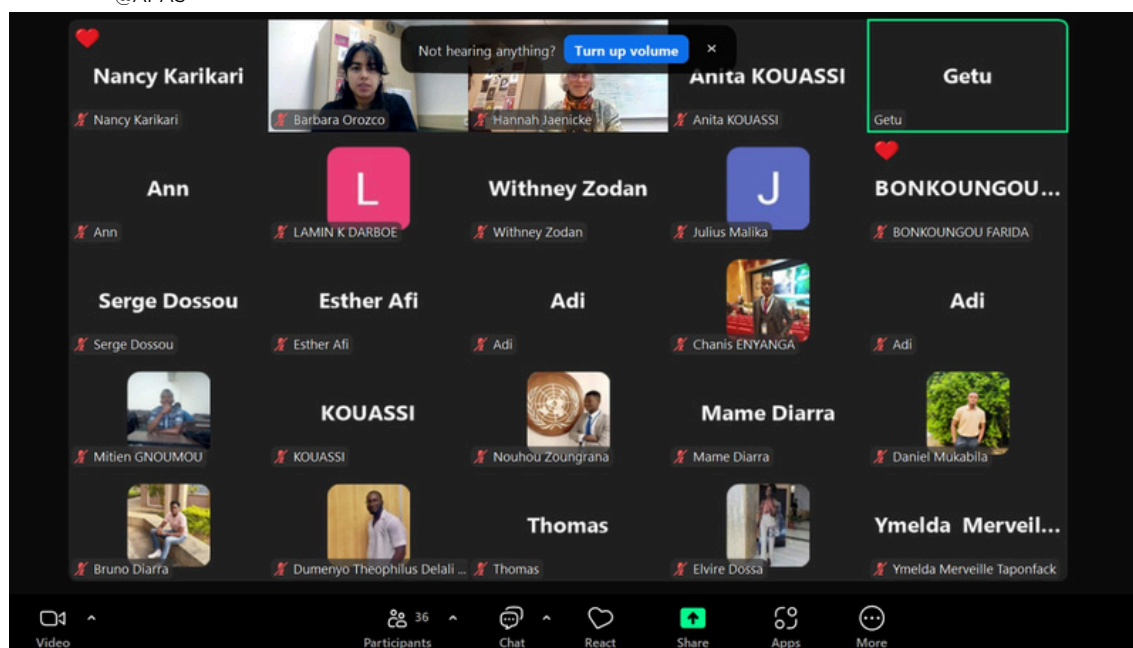
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HOW TO DEVELOP A POLICY BRIEF TRAINING

- Date: February 05, 2025
- Location: Online

The AFAS team organized a training for students on policy brief writing. The training was structured in four main parts: the importance of communication, the general elements of a message, how we communicate and finally the development of a policy brief and its different sections. The training was offered to all AFAS students, alumni and students from the AFAS's sister project Capacity Development for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Experts (CABES), with approximately 40 participants.



Outcomes: The training strengthened participants' capacity to translate scientific research into clear and policy-relevant communication products.

EDUCATIONAL CINEMA: THE BATTLE FOR LAIKIPIA

- Date: April 4, 2025
- Location: Nyumba Cinema, Nairobi, Kenya



Some of the AFAS students from the University of Nairobi visited Nyumba Cinema in Nairobi to watch the documentary film “The Battle for Laikipia”.

The film highlights the complex land conflicts between indigenous pastoralist communities such as the Samburu and large-scale landowners that include ranchers and conservancies. Both parties claim land ownership of the area. It was produced by One Story Up Productions, directed by Daphne Matziaraki and Peter Murimi and released on 15th June 2024. The documentary reinforces AFAS’s programme focus on interdisciplinary research and just climate adaptation that accounts for social, political, and ecological realities.

Four students contributed a blog post to the AFAS website reflecting on the film and its themes. Their article examines questions of ownership, the multiple dimensions of injustice, and the interconnected challenges of climate change and resource scarcity portrayed in the film.

Read the full blog here



Outcomes: The film served not only as a case study but also as a learning platform aligned with AFAS’s commitment to bridging science, policy, and practice.



@AFAS

PTM MEETING: DAAD GLOBAL CENTRES

- Date: May 5 - 7, 2025
- Location: Center for Development Research (ZEF), Bonn, Germany



@AFAS

AFAS hosted the in-person Project Team Meeting of the DAAD Global Centres for Climate and Environment, as well as for Health and Pandemic Prevention at ZEF. The hybrid meeting brought together approximately 45 on site and 15 online participants, representing all eight Global Centres. The event provided a platform to exchange updates, challenges and achievements, as well as to strengthen collaboration. This year's discussions focused particularly on fostering cross-centre collaboration.

Outcomes: The meeting strengthened collaboration and knowledge exchange across the eight DAAD Global Centres by identify pathways for increased cross-centre cooperation.



@ZEF/Alma van der Veen

AFAS STAFF AT THE UNFCCC CLIMATE MEETING SB62

- Date: June 16 - 26, 2025
- Location: World Conference Center, Bonn, Germany



@AFAS

Three of our AFAS staff, Gerda Kuiper (Coordinator, University of Cologne), Daniel Olago (PI, University of Nairobi), and Juliet Wanjiku Kamau (Project Coordinator, Bonn University), attended the climate meeting SB62 or “pre-COP” in Bonn.

The meeting was a great opportunity to strengthen AFAS’s engagement with the global climate policy space, enabling the Centre to gain in-depth insight into the most up-to-date discussions and emerging priorities within the global climate policy agenda. Their insights on the meeting are explained in more detail in a blog published by BRIDGES Cologne Policy Insights.

Outcomes: Participation in the SB62 climate meeting increased AFAS’s visibility within international climate policy discussions, strengthened engagement with global stakeholders, and provided valuable insights to align the Centre’s activities with emerging climate and biodiversity priorities.



← Read the full blog here



@AFAS

AFAS PARTICIPATION AT ECAS

- Date: June 26 - 28, 2025
- Location: Prague, Czech Republic

Three of our AFAS fellows (one post-doc, one alumni, and one master student) attended the 10th European Conference of African Studies (ECAS), which took place in June 2025, in Prague. The 2025 conference marked the anniversary of 20 years since the first ECAS conference in London in 2005, and the theme was *African, Afropolitan, and Afropean Belongings and Identities*,

Contributions

Our post-doc, Nelly Masayi, presented the “role of African Traditional Religion in the conservation of the transboundary Mt. Elgon Forest Ecosystem” in a panel on Ecospiritual Practices: Power Dynamics, Cultural Change, and Integrated Landscape Management in African and Afrodiasporic Contexts.



@AFAS

AFAS alumna Millicent Phillips presented on “Strengthening Climate Resilience and Conflict Mitigation in Tiaty, Baringo County, Kenya”. Finally, our master student Withney Zodan, shared her work on “Population Growth Influence on Land Use, and Ecosystem Services in the Lower Ouémé Valley, Benin.”

Outcomes

Participation in an event such as ECAS provides valuable opportunities for participants to present their work in an international conference, strengthen their academic careers, and build professional networks that support their future development.

AFAS PARTICIPATION AT TROPENTAG 2025

RECONCILING LAND SYSTEM CHANGES WITH PLANETARY HEALTH

- Date: September 10 - 12, 2025
- Location: University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany

The annual interdisciplinary conference on research in tropical and subtropical agriculture, natural resource management and rural development (Tropentag), was jointly organised by the Council for Tropical and Subtropical Research (ATSAF) and the University of Bonn. One of the AFAS staff members, Bárbara Orozco Meraz, was part of the organisation committee.



@Anindita Sarkar

Additionally, AFAS project manager Juliet Wanjiku Kamau actively participated as chair of the poster and in person presentation sessions on "Science Policy".

Our student Theophilus Delali Dumenyo also gave an online presentation on "Making the Case for Crop-Livestock Integration: Insights from Kumbungu, Ghana" on his master's thesis research.



@Anindita Sarkar



@ZEF

Outcomes: Participation in Tropentag increased AFAS's visibility within international research and science-policy communities, strengthened engagement in discussions on sustainable agriculture and biodiversity, and provided an opportunity for an AFAS student to present his master's research at an international scientific event, contributing to the dissemination and recognition of student-led research.

AFAS KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE, ENGAGEMENT & DISSEMINATION WEEK IN NAIROBI & ABIDJAN

- Date: October 13 - 17 & November 24 - 28, 2025
- Location: Nairobi, Kenya & Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire



@AFAS



@AFAS



@AFAS

These weeks in Nairobi and Abidjan included a series of interactive activities aimed at strengthening science-policy-practice collaboration on biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions (NbS). Participants engaged in stakeholder workshops, group discussions, research and poster presentations, policy brief development sessions, collaborative planning exercises, and field excursions to NbS implementation sites. The events also provided opportunities for networking, peer learning, and exchanges between students, researchers, policymakers, NGOs, and community representatives to support the practical application of biodiversity research and sustainable land management strategies.



@Macline Hien



@Macline Hien



@AFAS



@AFAS



@Macline Hien

Outcomes: The week provided a unique opportunity for students from West and East Africa to reconnect, strengthen the AFAS science-policy-practice interfaces (SPPPI) network, and deepen their understanding of NbS through field-based learning and exchanges.

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS IN NAIROBI & ABIDJAN

INTEGRATING INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH AND POLICY

- Date: October 15 & November 26, 2025
- Location: Movenpick Hotel, Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya & Novotel Marcory, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

The annual stakeholder workshops in Nairobi and Abidjan hosted up to 100 participants, which came from the science, policy and practice sectors. The events brought together AFAS stakeholders, students, alumni and AFAS staff. Participants were briefed on AFAS's phase 1 achievements and introduced to the goals of phase 2. A highlight from this year's workshops is the co-creation of research themes for future student cohorts from phase 2 with the help of the stakeholders, by identifying research gaps.

NAIROBI



@Waruisapix



@Waruisapix



@Waruisapix



@Waruisapix

ABIDJAN



@Macline Hien



@Macline Hien



@Macline Hien



@Macline Hien

Outcomes: The stakeholder workshops strengthened the AFAS SPPI network while the co-creation of future research themes ensured that upcoming student projects remain aligned with stakeholder needs and biodiversity priorities.

AFAS GRADUATION COHORT 2

- Date: November 25, 2025
- Location: Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

On the second day of the knowledge exchange, engagement and dissemination week in Abidjan, the AFAS students from UFHB had their graduation ceremony at the WASCAL/CEA-CCBAD, scientific and innovation pole of UFHB in Bingerville. Ten students coming from Burkina Faso, Benin, Cameroun, Ghana, Mali, DRC, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria received their master's certificate which were handed out to them by lecturers and AFAS staff.



@AFAS



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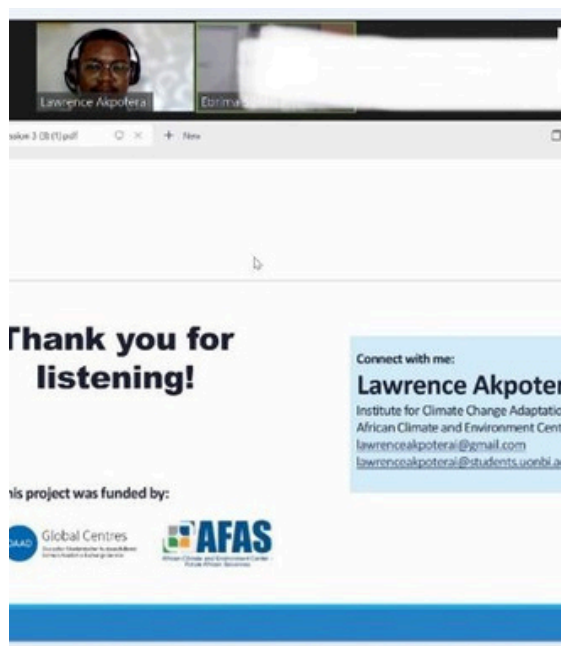
Outcomes: The graduation celebrated the completion of the student's academic journey at AFAS, in the presence of their fellow students and the whole AFAS team from West and East Africa and Germany.

STUDENT & ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

African Symposium on Climate Change, Land Use and Disasters Management

- Date: February 28, 2025
- Location: Ouagadougou , Burkina Faso (Online)

AFAS alumnus Lawrence Akpoterai presented on his master research.



@Lawrence Akpoterai

2nd East Africa Agroecology Conference

- Date: March 25 - 28, 2025
- Location: Nairobi, Kenya

AFAS students Julius Toba Malika, Thomas Alhassan, Kingsley Lemayian, Zerihune Emiru, Cynthia Akinyi Onyolo, Evelyn Othigo and Elvis Ogot at the conference.



@AFAS

CGIAR Science Week 2025

- Date: April 07 - 12, 2025
- Location: Nairobi, Kenya

AFAS students Thomas Alhassan, Cynthia Onyolo, Ann Njuguna, and Elvis Ogot at the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Science Week.



@AFAS

23 AETFAT Congress

- Date: August 03 - 08, 2025
- Location: Accra, Ghana

AFAS alumna Fanny Masally, at the Association for the Taxonomic Study of the Flora of Tropical Africa (AETFAT) congress, where she presented her master's thesis research, "Determinants of exploitation of *Lophira lanceolata* in the northern savanna of Sierra Leone".



@Fanny Masally

Future of Energy Conference 2025

- Date: August 26 - 27, 2025
- Location: Accra, Ghana

AFAS student Jonathan Magala (2nd from right to left) participated in discussions on financing Africa's energy transition and private-sector engagement.

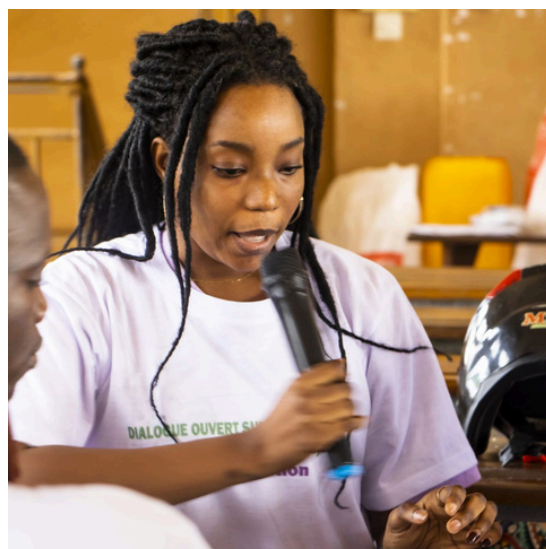


@Jonathan Magala

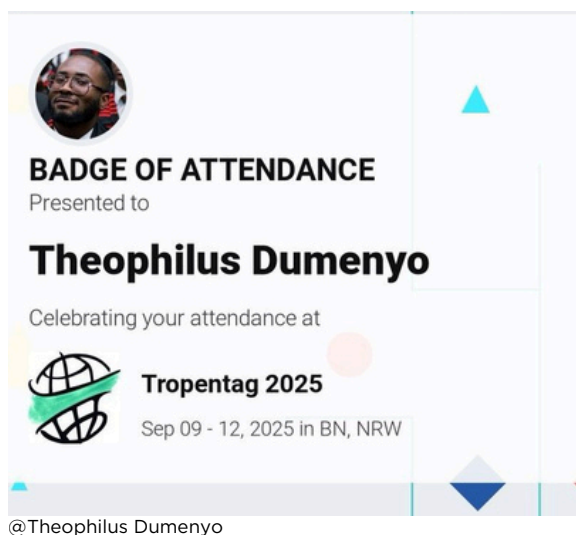
Open Dialogue on Climate Change 2025 (ODCC25)

- Date: August 30, 2025
- Location: Abomey-Calavi, Benin

AFAS student Nadia Elvire Dossa at the open dialogue.



@Nadia Elvire Dossa



Tropentag 2025

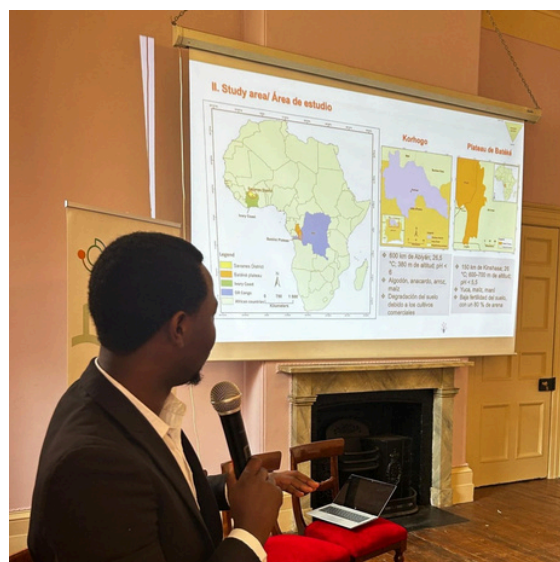
- Date: September 10 - 12, 2025
- Location: Bonn, Germany (hybrid)

AFAS alumnus Theophilus Dumenyo presented online on his master's thesis research, "Making the Case for Crop-Livestock Integration: Insights from Kumbungu, Ghana".

TRAJECTS Global Academy

- Date: October 06 - 10, 2025
- Location: Capetown, South Africa

AFAS student Jonathan Magala presented on his master research on agroforestry in African savannas not just as a farming practice, but as a key component of the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus.



@Jonathan Magala



@Theophilus Dumenyo

World Food Forum 2025

- Date: October 10 - 17, 2025
- Location: Rome, Italy

AFAS student Theophilus Delali Dumenyo participated on a panel on "Young Forest Champions: Indigenous and Rural Youth in Action".



@Kevin Yao Kouassi

2025 African School on Air Quality and Pollution Prevention

- Date: December 01- 19, 2025
- Location: Kumasi, Ghana

AFAS alumnus Kevin Yao Kouassi speaking at the event.

2-Day National Capacity-Building Workshop on NBSAP Implementation (Nigeria Youth Biodiversity Network)

- Date: December 11 - 12, 2025
- Location: Lagos, Nigeria

AFAS alumnus Kabir Adelakun speaking at the workshop.



@Kabir Adelakun



@AFAS

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