



Global Centres

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

Global Centres
for Climate and
Environment

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS AND SESSIONS

Imaginarities of Climate Futures: Cross Regional Insights to get from Knowledge to Action

2nd Interdisciplinary Conference of the DAAD-funded
Global Centres for Climate and Environment

10–12 of September 2024, Berlin, Germany





The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is pleased to kindly invite academics and research-active practitioners from the DAAD-funded Global Centres for Climate and Environment and their partner networks, as well as from other DAAD-funded projects working in the field of climate and environment to take part in the scientific networking conference “Imaginations of Climate Futures: Cross Regional Insights to get from Knowledge to Action” which will take place from 10th to 12th September 2024 in Berlin, Germany.

Due to the conviction that international scientific collaboration across disciplines is particularly important when it comes to mastering global challenges, the DAAD launched the Programme of the Global Centres. To enable education and research on climate and environment in a globally interconnected way and at the same time to develop solutions that are promising in the respective local contexts, the programme funds the establishment of four Global Centres for Climate & Environment (and equally four Centres for Health & Pandemic Prevention) with grants from the German Federal Foreign Office. The international Centres are situated at higher education institutions in the Global South. There, scientists and other stakeholders from local, national, regional and international level jointly build new and locally adapted expertise and engage with business, politics and civil society to close the gap between knowledge generation and implementation of suitable and sustainable climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

To foster the network of the Centres and similar initiatives and to offer a global, interdisciplinary exchange of knowledge regarding climate and environment, DAAD organises a biennial conference series during the funding period (2021–2030) of the Centres.

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Introduction

Perceptions of what the future will look like under climate change, of actions that humans have taken to fight it, and of the right way to react to climate change vary widely across different societal groups and different world regions. The spectrum ranges from the scenarios presented by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to scenarios that assume the continuation of growth in the use of fossil fuels for decades, from global actions based on the UN-framework to more local or regional strategies.

It is based on imaginaries of different climate futures that effective climate action is planned and implemented (or not). Hence, in order to close the gap between knowledge generation and implementation of suitable and sustainable climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, we need to understand how experts and societal groups across the globe imagine different climate futures. Which climate imaginaries exist across Sub-Sahara Africa, North Africa and the Middle East, Asia, Latin America or Europe? By including local societal knowledge and cultures, and by comparing different climate imaginaries across the globe, the DAAD Global Centres Conference in Berlin 2024 will explore pathways and obstacles to multilaterally coordinated approaches to the climate crisis. This will be done by focussing on the topics the four Global Centres for Climate and Environment address:

- As 80% of the global population faces water security threats, urgent adaptation measures are needed across sectors. Risks include increased coastal flooding, freshwater contamination, and escalating extreme weather events causing significant human and economic losses. Finding solutions to these risks is the task of the [Global Centre ABCD](#).
- Savannas are the largest biome in Africa and one of the largest worldwide. They also support a large proportion of the world’s human population and most of its rangeland, livestock and wild herbivore biomass. These ecosystems are anticipated to be among the ecosystems that are the most sensitive to future changes in the land use and climate. The [Global Centre AFAS](#) focuses on nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation and biodiversity loss in African savannas.



- The rangelands within the Middle East are experiencing degradation, and the pastoralism community is confronted with numerous challenges while being crucial for sustaining human livelihoods and ensuring food security. The [Global Centre SAGE](#) works for the provision of science-based solutions to the problems caused by climate and land use change in the Middle East.
- To avoid the consequences of climate change while achieving other societal and economic goals, our energy, agriculture and trade systems need to be radically transformed in the coming decades to achieve global carbon-neutrality by mid-century. The [Global Centre TRAJECTS](#) focuses on how those transformations can take place while achieving a just transition to the new systems.

Challenges

Initiatives like the Global Centres exemplify that multilateral academic exchange projects may overcome existing barriers like limited transfer of effective solutions by joint development and dissemination of mitigation and adaptation measures. Approaches for overcoming such barriers should incorporate:

- Support and promotion of collaborative efforts among the relevant stakeholders in the participating countries
- Cooperation between science and private sector, politics, and civil society
- Dissemination of innovative environmental technologies among participating countries
- Support and promotion of social and policy innovation
- Governance of resources, local societal knowledge, and cultures
- Community based management
- Support and promotion of climate, water, and energy justice
- Transferability of the results to comparable regions

There is evidence for the potential of such integrated approaches for the successful implementation of climate mitigation and adaptation measures and proof that despite increasing climate impacts, the losses can be mitigated successfully by effective governance of risks and emergency management. Necessarily, this includes transnational collaboration – for which in reverse conclusion, the results of integrated mitigation and adaptation projects of higher education entities like the Global Centres for Climate and Environment are a fundamental baseline.

Academia, together with policy makers, private sector and communities affected by environmental pollution and climate impacts, are developing new technologies and strategies and demonstrate the manifold transdisciplinary interactions of climate change aspects. Here, universities often focus on light-house projects with high visibility and transfer potential. Nonetheless, there is an increasing necessity to not only concentrate on fundamental science, but also on an effective and sustainable transfer of knowledge, products, patents, and procedures taking local knowledge and stakeholders into consideration. The DAAD Global Centres aim to address this necessity. The conference shall foster exchange on their work, on different imaginaries of climate futures and socially and economically just solutions for climate change around the world.



TARGET GROUP

The conference is dedicated to PhD students, Postdocs, and senior academics as well as research-active practitioners related to one of the DAAD-funded Global Centres for Climate and Environment and their partner networks, or from other DAAD-funded projects working in the field of climate and environment.

We invite submissions from the following subtopics and any other related topics:

1. **Energy transitions** (Sustainable post-mining futures for fossil-fuel dependent regions, imagining sustainable futures for the democratisation of energy production)
2. **Sustainable agriculture** (agroecology, biological agriculture, nature-based solutions)
3. **Balancing the three pillars of sustainability** (economic viability, environmental protection, and social equity) under changing climatic and social conditions
4. **Transfer strategies** to effect social transformations via the Climate Centres and other scientific projects (training, capacity building, Science-Policy-Practice Interface, community-based management...)
5. Managing **water security** (in quantity and quality) under climate change impact
6. Transformation of coastal urban areas to **climate resilient cities**
7. **Nexus approaches** (Water-Energy-Food, Water-Environment-Health, Water-Sanitation-Hygiene) for a sustainable future

At the same time and place, the conference of the Global Centres for Health and Pandemic Prevention with the theme “Global Actions for Sustainable Health for People and Planet” takes place. If any proposals fit in thematically with both conferences, overlapping sessions will be formed and included in both programmes.

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MODALITIES – SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

We welcome proposals for individual presentations (10 min + discussion) that will be grouped to interdisciplinary panels moderated by experienced members of the DAAD Global Centres network, and proposals for whole sessions (60/75/90/105 min) made by groups of scholars/project teams, that complement the traditional panels with roundtables or interactive formats.

All proposals will be reviewed by the conference’s Advisory Board, which is made up of selected academics from the four Global Centres for Climate and Environment.

We aim for a conference programme that genuinely reflects the scientific work currently undertaken at the DAAD Global Centres worldwide and other DAAD-funded projects in the same fields worldwide.

A. INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS

(AS ORAL PRESENTATIONS OF 10 MINUTES LENGTH OR AS POSTER)

Proposals for individual presentations should provide the following information:

1. Name, academic title, position and institutional affiliation(s) (including the Global Centre for Climate and Environment or other DAAD-funded project), email address/contact details
2. Title of the presentation (max. 20 words)
3. Do you want to present a poster or an oral presentation? (either/or)
4. Subtopic in which the presentation is to be classified (subtopic 1–7 named above, other, multiple options not possible)
5. Abstract of the presentation (maximum of 300 words, text only, no graphics or pictures)
6. List of authors (if applicable)
7. A short academic biography of the presenter (max. 200 words)
8. Agreement to digital publication of abstract and biography in conference proceedings? (Yes/no)



B. WHOLE SESSIONS (WORKSHOPS, ROUNDTABLES AND OTHER INTERACTIVE FORMATS)

Whole sessions, organised by groups of scholars/project teams, are foreseen in different formats:

- **roundtables:** groups of scholars (up to 5 discussants) discuss themes/issues in front of an audience that ideally is included into the debate by the possibility to ask questions/ comment.
- **workshops, working tables or other interactive formats:** interactive sessions of smaller groups that work together on a certain topic instructed by the organisers of the workshop.

Proposals for whole sessions should provide the following information:

1. Title of the session
2. Description of the planned format and the intended outcome of the session (approx. 50 words)
3. Name, academic title, position and institutional affiliation(s) of each active participant (i. a. including the Global Centre for Climate and Environment or other DAAD-funded project)
4. An abstract of the theme/session content, in case of workshops incl. information on needed limitation of participants (approx. 250 words)
5. Desired length of the session (60/75/90/105 min)
6. Name of the moderator/chair
7. Name of the coordinator including contact details

Formats in which two or more Global Centres/different initiatives and/or academics of various disciplines cooperate are especially welcome and encouraged. Each Global Centre should hand in at least one proposal for a session.

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TIMELINE FOR SUBMISSION AND SELECTION OF PROPOSALS

The deadline for submissions is **Friday, 15th December 2023**. All proposals must be submitted in English language. Submissions will be possible via a portal, the link can be found from mid of September at www.daad.de/globalcentres/conference.

The DAAD will notify you most likely before end of March 2024 whether the Academic Advisory Board has selected your proposal for the conference.



CONFERENCE LANGUAGE

The DAAD Global Centres Conference 2024 will be held in English.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Upon request, the DAAD is happy to offer applicants whose proposal has been accepted financial support in the form of conference grants, **subject to the availability of funds**. Conference grants include participation in the conference, travel, accommodation and board (breakfast, lunch, coffee breaks. i. a. evening receptions) for the duration of the conference. Further details will be provided after the conference proposals have been selected.

Further information will soon be available at www.daad.de/globalcentres/conference.

Supported by:



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