Global Centres

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

Global Centres for Climate and Environment

GLOBAL CENTRES SYMPOSIUM

Programme

Bridging the gap: Knowledge, Policy and Practice for Climate-Resilience and Sustainable Development

29 September- 01 October 2026

Tagungswerk

Lindenstraße 85, 10969 Berlin

(WS 2 and 3 take place at WissenschaftsForum Berlin, Markgrafenstraße 37, 10117 Berlin)

Version: 23 September 2026



- Workshop assignments were made based on the preferences indicated during registration. **All participants received information about the workshops for which they are registered; only these workshops can be attended.** If you don't know about which Workshops you are registered for, please ask at reception desk.
  If you are unable to participate in a workshop you are registered for, please inform us.
- **Workshops 2 and 3 will take place at** a different location! They will take place at **WissenschaftsForum Berlin, Markgrafenstraße 37, 10117 Berlin.**
- Please also take a look at the programme of the Symposium **of the Global Centres for Health and Pandemic Prevention "Five Years of Impact, Five Years of Vision: Transforming Knowledge into Practice"** taking place at the same time in the same location. You are cordially invited to participate in this symposium as well! Sessions that are part of both symposiums are written in blue.

Tuesday, 29 September 2026

from 8.30 a.m.	**REGISTRATION**
9.00 a.m.-1.00 p.m.	PARALLEL SESSIONS
9.00 a.m.-1.00 p.m. Seminar 5	**PHD RETREAT PART 1**
9.30 a.m.-1.00 p.m. Seminar 4	**WORKSHOP 3: TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE - REVITALIZING TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE, WATER SECURITY, AND JUST TRANSITION** *The workshop examines how Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) can be meaningfully integrated into climate adaptation research and policy, particularly in the Global South. Following an opening session, participants join thematic working groups on key challenges, including epistemic and institutional barriers, integration of TEK into research and modelling, empowerment, and policy interfaces for adaptation strategies. Plenary synthesis sessions serve to consolidate insights and practical recommendations. The main output will be a concise synthesis document summarizing key conceptual insights, methodological guidance, and practical pathways for incorporating TEK into climate adaptation efforts, with special focus on water security, knowledge sovereignty, and equitable collaboration.* CHAIRED BY **Sarah Elser**, ABCD, Academic Coordinator ABCD, Technical University Dresden **Nataly Alexandra Díaz**, TRAJECTS, Latam Academic coordinator Universidad Nacional de Colombia EXPERT INPUT BY **Juan Carlos Cueva**, TRAJECTS, Universidad Nacional de Colombia

Binayak Das, Director Biodiversity and Water, adelphi Research & Global

Prof Dr Edeltraud Günther, ABCD, Prof. for Business Administration, esp. Sustainability Management and Environmental Accounting

Prof Dr Guillaume Lacombe, (online-participation) Researcher – Hydrology and Water Management, CIRAD (French agricultural research center for international development), Joint Research Unit "Water matters" (UMR G-eau).

Atalia Mejía Brito, TRAJECTS, Universidad del Magdalena

9.15 – 11.45 a.m.

WissenschaftsForum Berlin, Markgrafenstraße 37, 10117 Berlin
Room 102

WORKSHOP 1: ENGAGEMENT WITH UN PROCESSES AND COPS FOR SCIENCE, POLICY AND PRACTICE

The workshop targets participants from science, policy, and practice, aligning with the theme "From Knowledge to Action." It focuses on developing draft proposals for side events at UN conventions (such as UNFCCC or UNCCD) that have a high chance of being accepted and making an impact. The session starts with an introduction to UN processes and COP participation by Franklin Odhiambo (UNFCCC), followed by brief experience reports and a joint discussion on how academic contributions can be both relevant and useful for policy and implementation. After a short break, participants will then collaboratively draft concrete side event proposals and explore further opportunities for meaningful engagement in UN processes in moderated breakout groups.

CHAIRED BY

Dr Gerda Kuiper, Global South Studies Center (GSSC), University of Cologne

EXPERT INPUT BY

Prof Dr Lisa Biber-Freudenberger, AFAS, Professor and Group Leader at the Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn

Franklin Odhiambo, Programme Officer, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Prof Dr N'golo Koné, AFAS, Senior researcher and lecturer, Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny (UFHB) and African Center of Excellence CCBAD

Dr Flora Kpan, AFAS, Researcher at University Nangui Abrogoua

Theophilus Delali Dumenyo, AFAS Alumnus, Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny (UFHB)

Dr Henning Sommer, AFAS, Senior Researcher and Science Manager at ZEF, University of Bonn

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11.00 a.m.-12.30 p.m.

WissenschaftsForum Berlin, Markgrafenstraße 37, 10117 Berlin

Room 408 (MPG)

WORKSHOP 2: WHOSE LAND, WHOSE TREES, WHOSE RULES? NEGOTIATING EQUITY, ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT IN NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

This interactive session uses a moderated role-play and negotiation exercise focusing on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) as a contested policy arena. Participants assume roles from science, policy, market, and community perspectives, negotiating concrete outcomes under real-world economic, environmental, and equity constraints. The exercise highlights trade-offs, power asymmetries, and decision rules involved in managing land and tree-based NbS, making visible

how evidence, knowledge, and interests are prioritized or marginalized. By simulating real decision-making dynamics without aiming for consensus, the session deepens understanding of the complex interactions and conflicts that shape NbS implementation in practice.

CHAIRED BY

Dr Juliet Kamau, AFAS, Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn

EXPERT INPUT BY

Prof Leonidah Kerubo Omosa, Accounting Officer and Dean at the Faculty of Science & Technology and Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor at Human Resources and Administration, University of Nairobi

Dr Christopher Kouamé, Country Director at CIFOR-ICRAF, Cote d'Ivoire

Dr Stella Mbiti, Manager of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network Kenya

Dr Simon Silué, AFAS, Postdoctoral Researcher at Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny (UFHB)

12.30 – 2.00 p.m. — LUNCH BREAK

2.00 -3.30 p.m.

Saal Süd

KEYNOTE LECTURE AND DISCUSSION: OVERCOMING CLIMATE LOCK-INS: SCIENCE-POLICY COLLABORATION FOR ENERGY TRANSITION, WATER SECURITY, AND RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS

KEYNOTE BY

Prof Dr Joyeeta Gupta, Professor of Climate Justice, Sustainability and Global Constitutionalism and Professor of Environment and Development in the Global South at the University of Amsterdam and IHE Delft Institute for Water Education

CHAIRED BY

Prof Dr Michael Bollig, AFAS, Professor of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Cologne

Dr Amna Jrrar, SAGE, Independent Researcher

Following the keynote, each Global Climate Centre will highlight in 3 minutes how they work to overcome climate lock-ins. A Q&A-session will give room to discussion.

PROJECT-SPOTLIGHTS ON THE KEYNOTE

for ABCD: Prof Dr Jürgen Stamm, Technical University Dresden

for AFAS: Prof Daniel Olago, University of Nairobi

for SAGE: Prof Anan Jayousi, An-Najah National University

for TRAJECTS: Prof Dr Pao-Yu Oei, Europa-Universität Flensburg

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3.30-4.00 p.m. — COFFEE BREAK

4.00-5.30 p.m.

Saal Gesamt

OFFICIAL OPENING FOR BOTH THE HEALTH AND THE CLIMATE SYMPOSIUM

WELCOME NOTES AND PROGRAMME PORTRAIT OF THE GLOBAL CENTRES

Dr Muriel Helbig, Vice President, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Christina Beinhoff, Head of the "Culture and Communication" department, Federal Foreign Office (AA)

ROUND TABLE: GLOBAL CENTRES. IMPACT AND VISION FROM AN ALUMNI PERSPECTIVE

In this session, alumni from various Centres share how their experiences shaped their careers and enabled them to translate academic work into real-world benefit. They will highlight career development, research themes, and challenges faced. The session also explores how the Centres can further strengthen health systems, prevent pandemics, and promote sustainability over the next five years, offering authentic alumni perspectives and inviting audience dialogue on maximizing impact

CHAIRED BY

Dr Alejandra Duque, CAIDERA, Project Manager, Institute of Tropical Medicine, University Hospital of Tübingen

PANELLISTS

Praise Oluwakemi Joy Adewumi, CAIDERA, Researcher at Medical University of Vienna

Dr Huy Loc Do, PACE-UP, Researcher at Institute of Tropical Medicine, University of Tübingen

Joseph Ndiba, AFAS, Research Associate at University of Nairobi

Mai Nusir, SAGE, PhD Student Brandenburgische Technische Universität Cottbus-Senftenberg

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5.30-6.00 p.m. GROUP PHOTO

6.00-9:30 p.m. **DRINKS AND RECEPTION AT THE CONFERENCE VENUE CULTURAL EVENING**

Wednesday, 30 September 2026

9 – 10.30 a.m.

Saal Gesamt

PLENARY: WHO DECIDES WHAT COUNTS? KNOWLEDGE, POWER & CO-DECISION IN SCIENCE-TO-POLICY TRANSFER

Bridging science and policy for climate resilience remains a core challenge. While research and engagement are increasingly referenced in strategies, participation often stops at consultation, with political and institutional factors shaping which knowledge informs decisions. This plenary critically examines how real power dynamics—not just procedure—affect science–policy transfer. Experts from government, research, and youth advocacy will discuss participation models, barriers to true co-decision, and whether inclusion and effective policy can go hand in hand.

PANELLISTS

Binayak Das, Director Biodiversity and Water, adelphi Research & Global

Prof Dr Martin Grambow, Spokesperson IESP e.V., former Bavarian 'Director General' for Water and Soil

Krishnagopal Venkata Grandhi, Group CEO at Access Livelihoods

Ana Clara Szymanski, Research Associate and PhD Candidate at the Technical University of Munich

Christiane Textor, IPCC coordination at the German Aerospace Center (DLR)

Krishan Tyagi, Programme Manager, German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)

10.30 – 11 a.m. COFFEE BREAK

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11 – 11.45 a.m.

Saal Gesamt

POSTER TALKS

Posters will be presented in 3-min-pitches to the audience. Afterwards, the authors will be available to answer questions and hold discussions by maintaining a presence directly at their posters. We invite all academics participating in the conference whose research topics correspond to those of the posters to enter discussions. Thank you.

PRESENTATIONS

From Knowledge to Action: Science–Policy–Practice Interfaces for Social Transformation

Kabir Adekunle Adelakun, AFAS: From Socio-Ecological Evidence to Decision-Making: Bridging Science–Policy and Community Action for Carnivore Conservation in Nigeria's Yankari Game Reserve

Theophilus Dumenyo, AFAS: Financial Viability and Adoption Dynamics of Climate-Resilient Crop-Livestock Systems in Kumbungu, Northern Ghana

Yao Kevin Kouassi, AFAS: The Grand-Lahou Savanna: Between Traditional Knowledge, Land Fragmentation, and Ecological Urgency

Jonathan Magala Bachiseze, AFAS: From Data to Action: Designing an Evidence-Informed Framework to Optimise Agroforestry Systems in West African Savannas, Côte d'Ivoire

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Navigating Sustainability Trade-offs: Equity, Economy and Environment in a Changing Climate

Esther Juma, AFAS: Women's Agency in Conservation: Roles, Influence, and Constraints in Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancy, Northern Kenya

Reimagining Energy Futures: Just Transitions Beyond Fossil Fuel Economies

Julia Tatham, TRAJECTS: Transforming Energy Access for a Just Transition: Welfare Impacts and Implementation Gaps of South Africa's Lifeline Tariff

Atalia Mejia Brito, TRAJECTS: When Coal Declines: Territorial Voices and Just Transition Pathways in La Jagua de Ibirico, Cesar, Colombia.

Transforming Agriculture and Food Systems for Climate Resilience

Wendpanga Safiatou Farida Bonkoungou, AFAS: Farmers' Perceptions of the Benefits of Agroforestry: The Case of Farmers-Managed Natural Regeneration in Northern Burkina Faso

Securing Water Futures under Climate Change

Juan Carlos Cueva Orjuela, TRAJECTS: Water security from an Indigenous knowledge perspective: An evaluation framework for the Amazon Basin River

William de Jesús Olivero Jaramillo, TRAJECTS: Analysis of the implementation of public policies on energy communities in La Jagua (Cesar) within the framework of Just Energy Transitions in Colombia

Cities at the Frontline: Urban and Coastal Pathways to Climate Resilience

Dr Amna Jrrar, SAGE: Extreme events, socioeconomic consequences, and resilience of local communities: Al-Azraq Case Study

Annet Margaret Nabirye, AFAS: Nature Based Solutions for Flood Management In Kampala City: The Case of Lubigi Wetland Restoration

11.45 a.m.– 12.30 p.m., Saal Gesamt	POSTER WALK
12.30 – 1.30 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK

1.30 - 3.00 p.m.

Saal Gesamt

PANEL DISCUSSION: CLIMATE WATER AND HEALTH NEXUS

The panel explores the intersection of SDG 6 (Water), SDG 3 (Health), and SDG 13 (Climate Action). The discussion highlights innovations in resilient infrastructure, digital water management, health equity, and integrated governance to secure water systems against climate-driven risks. By convening experts across sectors, the session aims to advance scalable technologies, promote climate finance, and build strategic partnerships, aligning with the 2026 UN Water Conference and Africa Water Vision 2063.

CHAIRED BY

Prof Dr Sannisiraj Sannasi Annamalaisamy, ABCD, Professor at Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)

PANELLISTS

Dr Kalpana Balakrishnan, Director of WHO-CC for Occupational and Environmental Health, Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research

Prof Venkatachlam Lingappan, Professor at Shiv Nadar University, Madras Institute of Development Studies

Dr Manjula Rahi, Director at ICMR-National Institute for Vector Control Research

Prof Thenmozhi Ramaswami, ABCD, Professor at IIT Madras

Prof Dr Thirumalaisamy P. Velavan, PACE-UP, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Universitätsklinikum Tübingen

Dr Ramana Murthy Mallavarapu Venkata, Mission Director of the Deep Ocean Mission at Ministry of Earth Sciences

3.30 - 5.00 p.m.

Saal Süd

PLENARY: FROM SANTA MARTA TO THE GLOBAL STAGE: COALITION-BUILDING IN A SOCIO-TECHNICAL UNSTOPPABLE TRANSITION—SCALING THE SCIENCE-POLICY NEXUS TO PHASE OUT FOSSIL FUELS

The plenary session addresses the urgent need for a rapid yet truly "just" transition away from fossil fuels. Drawing on insights from the First International Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in Santa Marta and TRAJECTS' fieldwork, the discussion examines how to redefine academic roles—moving beyond research to active policy engagement. Central themes include practical definitions of "justice" for affected communities in the Global South, the evolving responsibilities of scientists in science communication, and the synchronization of local needs with global climate goals. The session targets both academics and policymakers, aiming to create a shared roadmap for equitable, evidence-based climate action over the next five years.

CHAIRED BY

Grace Quiceno Soto, TRAJECTS

PANELLISTS

Prof Harro von Blottnitz, TRAJECTS, Professor at University of Cape Town

Prof Andrea Cardoso Diaz, TRAJECTS, Professor at Universidad del Magdalena

Andrew Marquard, Energy Systems Research Group, University of Cape Town

Moyahabo Masipa, TRAJECTS, Academic Coordinator at University of Cape Town

Prof Dr Pao-Yu Oei, TRAJECTS, Professor at Europa-Universität Flensburg

Thursday, 01 October 2026

9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	PARALLEL SESSIONS
9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Seminar 3	**PHD RETREAT PART 2: SCIENTIFIC WRITING AND COMMUNICATION** with Theodor Best
9.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m., Saal Süd	**PROJECT TEAM MEETING** with the whole Project Teams of all Climate Centres
12.30 – 1.00 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
1.30 – 6.00 p.m.	PARALLEL SESSIONS
2.00 - 6.00 p.m. Seminar 3	**PHD RETREAT PART 3: HOW TO MANAGE YOUR PHD-PROJECT** with Andrea Perino
1.30 – 3.30 p.m. Seminar 5	**WORKSHOP 4: ENGINEERING GOVERNANCE FOR JUST ENERGY TRANSITIONS: INTEGRATED METHODOLOGIES FOR MULTI STAKEHOLDER DECISION-MAKING** *Technical siting analyses and political decisions rarely meet. This workshop connects them through an interactive, GIS-based multi-criteria decision tool built on GENTE, a Colombian onshore wind study. In small groups, participants weight evaluation criteria, then decide where conflict and governance belong in the model — as interpretation, as weighted criteria, or as thresholds — and observe how the territorial ranking changes. The exercise surfaces what an indicator measures, and for whom. No engineering background is required; the focus is on integrating perspectives across sectors and regions. Participants are asked to bring a laptop or tablet. The output is an annotated decision-framework outline that can serve as the basis for a future co-authored Policy Brief.* CHAIR **Prof Victor Jose Olivero Oritz,** TRAJECTS, Professor at the Universidad del Magdalena CO-CHAIR **Prof Andrea Cardoso,** TRAJECTS, Professor at the Faculty of Business Administration at the Universidad del Magdalena

1.30 – 6.00 p.m.

Saal Süd

WORKSHOP 5: FROM KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION: UNIVERSITIES BRIDGING WATER SECURITY AND CLIMATE ADAPTION

This workshop brings together the Global Centres Community to strengthen the interface between science, policy, and practice in climate-resilient water systems. Participants collaboratively analyze barriers, identify integration pathways, and develop a draft concept for a Policy Brief focused on inclusive, evidence-based adaptation. The session combines insights from previous UN Water processes and the ABCD-Centre's Transfer and Monitoring Concept, guiding thematic group work on knowledge transfer, capacity building, and policy engagement. The workshop delivers not only a tangible event concept but also builds capacity for ongoing co-creation and effective implementation across the network.

CHAIRED BY

Dr André Lindner, ABCD, TUD | Dresden University of Technology & UNU Hub CREST

Prof Dr Daniel Karthe, ABCD, Director of UNU Resource Nexus

group moderation: **Karola Schmidt** (RWTH), **Sarah Elser** (TUD), **Dr. Kaushal Chapagain** (AIT), **Dr. Vengadesan Palanimanckam** (IIT-M) – ABCD

PRESENTERS

Prof Mukand Babel, ABCD, Professor at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)

Prof Dr Serena Coetzee, ABCD, Head of Education and Capacity Development at UNU Resource Nexus

Prof Dr Hella Runge, Professor at the University of Applied Science Münster

Prof Sannisiraj Sannasi Annamalaisamy, ABCD, Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M)

Richa Srivastava, Senior Scientist at the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT-R)

Prof Dr Jürgen Stamm, ABCD, Professor at TUD | Dresden University of Technology

END OF THE CONFERENCE

We have new Factsheets for the Global Centres Programme and for each of the eight Centres!

Have a look and share!

DAAD-Fact Sheets of the Global Centres Climate & Health

Are you already part of our DAAD Climate- LinkedIn-Group? Would be happy to welcome new members!

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