

29 April 2026, 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. – (Burundi Time)

Conference Ensuring Water for All through Scientific Cooperation

Venue: Salle des Conférences du 11 Juin, Campus Mutanga, Bujumbura, Burundi (Hybrid)

Link Video conference :

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/HPRDGm59TFKq5roKeD3Wqg

The National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) are organizing a meeting to discuss new ways to collaborate with East Africa. The conference proposes to establish a scientific encounter between researchers funded by the CNRS multi-year cooperation roadmap and grantees of the African Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence (ARISE), an innovative research & innovation support program implemented by the AAS in partnership with the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU). With an emphasis on the ARISE program, this event aims to initiate a conversation about STI collaboration between European and African partners.

The conference will showcase Prof. Samuel Bunani, an ARISE grantee, whose research focuses on developing an electrochemical process for the recovery of nutrients from liquid waste resources. In addition, Dr Abdallah Mahamat Nour, an ARISE grantee in Chad, working on the effects of climate on aquifer recharge, will present his groundbreaking research and findings. To complement these presentations, Prof. Sidy Ba and Dr. Ngonye Keroletswe, also ARISE grantees, will join to showcase their ARISE research projects.
CNRS teams will engage in discussions on the work presented by the ARISE programme laureates.

European Research Council
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Deploying research
Sharing science
Transforming the future

Agenda

OPENING SESSION

09.00 AM – 09.50 AM

Prof. Prudence Bararunyeretse, **Vice Chancellor, University of Burundi**
The Burundi national anthem, followed by welcome remarks
Prof. François Havyarimana, **Minister of National Education and Scientific Research, Burundi**
H.E. Elisabetta Pietrobon, **EU Ambassador, Burundi**
Jérémy GRAND, **Chargé d'Affaires ad interim, French Embassy, Burundi**

KEYNOTE SPEECH

9:50 AM - 11:00 AM

Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, **AUC-ESTI, Comissioner, former Burundi Minister of National Education and Scientific Research (Virtually)**
Mr. Damien Niyonkuru, **Minister of Infrastructure, Social Housing, Transport and Equipment**

Presentation about the AAS and Fellows :
Prof. Juma Shabani, **Chairman Programme Committee ARISE and AAS Fellow**
Presentation of the ARISE program :
Dr. James Mushori, **Senior Pogrammes Officer, AAS**
Presentation on Horizon Europe :
Dr. Laurent Bochereau, **EU Science Counsellor to the African Union**
Introduction about CNRS :
Dr. Benoit Hazard, **Director of the regional CNRS Office in Nairobi**

SCIENTIFIC INTERACTIONS

Scientific Presentation & Discussion (Moderator : Dr. Benoit Hazard)

11:00 AM -12:25 PM

Prof. Samuel Bunani, **ARISE Fellow, Burundi,** *Development of an Electrochemical Process for Recovery of Nutrients from Liquid Waste Resources (e-Pro4ReNs)*
Dr. François Zaviska, **Université de Montpellier**
Didier Orange, **IRD,** *Multisectoral Water Management:from Pluridisciplinarity to Local Solutions*
Prof. Manuel Ferrer, **CSIC**, *From Monitoring to Action: Integrated Biotechnological Solutions for Water Bioremediation and Decontamination,*
Dr. Prince Nana Amaniampong, **ERC,** *Catalytic Cavitation Membrane Agents for Ultrasound-Assisted PFAS Elimination and Wastewater Purification*
Q&A

Lunch Break

Scientific presentations - ARISE Fellows (Moderator : Dr. James Mushori)

1:30 PM – 3:15 PM

Dr. Ngonye Keroletswe, **ARISE Fellow, Botswana,** *Sustainable water filtration using cellulose based membranes derived from local biomass*
Dr. Abdallah Mahamat Nour, **ARISE Fellow, Chad,** *Impact of climate change on wetlands from the Lake Chad basin and its consequences on groundwater recharge*
Prof. Sidy Ba, **ARISE Fellow, Mali**, *Enzymatic biotechnology for nature based remediation of environmental pollution (ENZYREP)*
Dr. Marc Jolivet, **CNRS** (online), *Natural toxicity of groundwater in the Okavango Delta : One Health implications*
Dr. Florence Sylvestre, **IRD,** *Strengthening of the hydrological cycle in the Lake Chad basin under current climate change*
Dr. Jelena Radjenovic, **ERC,** *Selective electrochemical separation and recovory of lithium and other metals using tailored monolith electrodes*
Dr. Alba Gomez-Arias, **Institute of Natural Resources and Agrobiology of Seville (IRNAS-CSIS)**
Q&A

Roundtable discussions - Consolidating and innovations session (Modarator : Dr. James Mushori)

3:15 PM - 3:40 PM

Prof. Samuel Bunani
Prof. Abdallah Mahamat Nour
Prof. Sidy Ba
Dr. Ngonye Keroletswe

SUMMARY OF THE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS AND CLOSING

3:40 PM - 4:00 PM

Prof. Zacharie Miburo, **National Commission of Sciences, Technology and Innovations (CNSTI)**
Prof. Prudence Bararunyeretse, **Vice Chancellor, University of Burundi**