



## TRAINING COURSE:

### "SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE USE INVOLVING LOCAL COMMUNITIES, APPLYING TRANSDISCIPLINARY METHODS"

The West African-German network „Promoting Academic Capacities for Sustainable Agricultural Resources Use in West Africa“ – Pro-RUWA aims to train a new generation of regionally and internationally educated young scientists, entrepreneurs, and administrators. Future decision makers in francophone West Africa will be capacitated to jointly overcome bottlenecks in resource overuse and food insecurity at the national and regional level by fostering university education, international relations, regional development, and operational links between the academic, public and private sector. Pro-RUWA therefore tries to strengthen its teaching capacities and local impact by developing transdisciplinary approaches and online courses. One of those is the transdisciplinary SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE USE INVOLVING LOCAL COMMUNITIES, APPLYING TRANSDISCIPLINARY METHODS - a training course to moderate between science and the public.

## Content and aim

The hybrid 10-day training course implies a 3-days online course and a 7-days on-site workshop in Benin. The training is to provide an intercultural, inter- and transdisciplinary learning and exchange platform for PhD candidates and young scientists in the agricultural sciences domain from different countries, representing different scientific discipline and doing research on sustainable development and global change.

The training course focuses on the sustainable management and governance of as well as tensions on resources, landscapes and protected areas and the involvement of local communities.

The programme includes the following blocks:

- **Conceptual seminar** providing insights into concepts of and debates on sustainable resources use and local/indigenous knowledge (partly online/self-paced)
- **A methodological seminar** where participants will discuss current trends, goals and suitable methodologies of transdisciplinary research (partly online/self-paced)
- **Case studies** focusing on the topic of the summer-school

Transdisciplinary research is an approach that enables us to bring together different perspectives from science and society and to advance the solution of real problems. Participants will gain a deepened understanding of the challenges of sustainable resource management and development, policy and conservation on a national and transnational level, both from a theoretical and practical perspective. Further, they will gain insights into the fundamentals and challenges of transdisciplinary research and practice.

Training on theories and frameworks will be accomplished by professional and regional expertise as well as input lectures by and discourses with experts, exercises, interdisciplinary group work, fieldwork, and peer-to-peer collaboration.

## Preliminary program overview

Sun 27 April	Mon 28 April	Tue 29 April	Wed 30 April	Thu 1 May
Arrival and check-in of all students	Welcome & introduction	Methodological seminar 1	Half-day excursion	Field trip (group work)
	Conceptual seminar 1	Methodological seminar 2		
	Conceptual seminar 2	Methodological seminar 3	Introduction of field studies	
	Conceptual seminar 2	Conceptual seminar 3	Case studies	
		Social event	Preparation of field trips (group work)	Debriefing field trip (group work)

Fri 2 May	Sat 3 May	Sun 4 May	Mo 5 May
Field trip (group work)	Analysing results of field data collection	Analysing results of field data collection	Departure of all participants
		Group presentation and discussion	
		Course evaluation & closing	
		Farewell & social event	
Debriefing field trip (group work)	Analysing results of field data collection (group work)		

## Dates and place

**Location:** Cotonou, Benin

**Dates:** The Training Course consists of a 3-day online part and a 7-day practical part in person.

- Online/self-paced: April 15 – 17, 2025
- In presence: April 28 – May 04, 2025. The group participants will arrive in the afternoon April 27 and depart at May 05.

## Participants

PhD students and young scientists in the field of agricultural sciences domain (sustainability sciences, resource management, geography, social sciences, heritage studies, development studies, conservation, political sciences or related fields of studies) in particular from Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger universities.

A very good knowledge (min. B2) of English is required in order to participate actively in the discussions and to present your own work in English. For those that do not have an English certificate, we offer an interview to decide on the eligibility.

The Training Course is limited to 20 students.

## Credits

This Training Course assigns credits 3 ECTS for participating in the Training Course and preparatory tasks. Students are responsible for dealing with the local (GPA) credit recognition at their home university individually.

Attendance of participants during the 10 days must be at least 90 percent to receive the credit and a letter of attendance.

## Accommodation and costs

Participants from outside Cotonou/Benin will have accommodation near the venue. Accommodation (shared room with other participants) and food will be provided.

A contribution of XOF 20.000 is charged to co-finance accommodation, food, and travel to field trips.

Please note that participants located in Benin need to take care of their individual travel to Cotonou and costs reimbursed after the event. Travels (bus or plane) from Burkina Faso and Niger will be organized by Pro-RUWA.

## Insurance

Participants are responsible for their insurance coverage (e.g. health insurance, liability insurance, travel insurance). Involved institutions, Pro-RUWA, and the lecturer is not responsible for any incidences.

## Registration and application process

Please use the following [link](#) and submit the following documents (inside the link):

- CV (max. 3 pages, including name and surname, study level (Ph.D. etc), nationality, faculty and university you are currently studying)
- Motivation letter (max. 1 page)

The application is open until 12.02.2025

In case of questions, please write at [graduateschool.pro-ruwa@uni-kassel.de](mailto:graduateschool.pro-ruwa@uni-kassel.de) (Dr. Martin Wiehle)

All applicants will be notified by 28 February 2025 latest.

## Organisers

University of Kassel, Faculty of Organic Agricultural Sciences, Project: Pro-RUWA  
University of Abomey-Calavi, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences