



Dear ZEF alumni,

We are happy to send you our latest edition of the ZEF Alumni Newsletter. Thank you for staying in contact with us here at ZEF. As the ZEF Alumni Network continues to grow each year, we make continued efforts to keep everyone informed about the exciting and innovative research that our researchers are pursuing. Part of this edition's exciting news is that the University of Bonn was awarded the title of "Excellent University" as a result of a Germany-wide competition. We at BIGS-DR are especially looking forward to following the research and outcome of the so-called Phenorob Cluster on the topic of agro-economics to which colleagues at ZEF are contributing.

ZEF's growing alumni network means that we will continue to branch out and cultivate new opportunities for connection. We hope that as alumni, you will take advantage of the resources that ZEF has to offer, as well as share your own experiences with the rest of us in the ZEF community. Tell us about any of your personal, professional, and academic development stories and we can spread the word to our ever-increasing global community.

Wishing you and your families all the best and a happy New Year,

Dr. Günther Manske & the BIGS-DR Team

PS: You can always stay up-to-date with ZEF's activities via our [website](#), where you can also find links to ZEF on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) or the [ZEF Research Blog](#).

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We are excellent!



The director of the University of Bonn (middle) is happy and proud after the results of the University of Excellence competition have been announced. (Photo: University of Bonn)

University of Excellence: Bonn now among the top German universities

The success story of the University of Bonn reached a new peak: The university obtained the **status of Excellence in 2019**, as one of only 11 German universities. Bonn has been the most successful university in Germany's nationwide Excellence Competition. This decision is groundbreaking for the future of the University of Bonn and will help us to establish Bonn among the best universities in Germany and Europe. The university had already succeeded in getting six "Clusters of Excellence" in 2018 in the German-wide Excellence Strategy **research competition** run by the German federal and state governments. The long-term funding of the Universities of Excellence began in November 2019 and will initially have a volume of up to 105 million Euros per funded university for seven years and up to 15 million Euros per year and university. The epochal success in both funding competitions is at best not only temporary, but also long-term. In contrast to previous funding rounds, funding is not limited to a specific period. Every seven years, the funded universities and associations must demonstrate in an evaluation that they have successfully implemented their applications. At the heart of Bonn University's excellence strategy is a triad, which it has described in its institutional strategy under the proposal title **"WE invest in people, WE foster networks, WE create impact"**.

Six newly established Transdisciplinary Research Areas (TRAs) are the foundation of the new excellence strategy: Mathematics, Modelling and Simulation of Complex Systems; Building Blocks of Matter and Fundamental Interactions; Live and Health; Individuals, Institutions and Societies; Past Worlds and

Modern Questions. Cultures in time and space; and Innovation and Technology for a Sustainable Future. ZEF- Director Prof. Dr. Joachim von Braun and ZEF-Prof. Dr. Jan Börner are participating in the innovation and technology research group. Each Transdisciplinary Research Area has a Cluster of Excellence at its core. More information on the new excellence strategy can be found online.



New Bonn Alliance for Sustainability Research

The Bonn Alliance for Sustainability Research was founded in 2017 in the context of the UN Climate Conference **COP23** in Bonn, with the aim of **strengthening knowledge and skills for sustainable development in Bonn and beyond**. To this end, the institutions in the Bonn Alliance for Sustainability Research have joined forces. The alliance consists of six Bonn-based but internationally operating institutions: In addition to ZEF, the alliance includes the Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC), the German

Development Institute (DIE), the Bonn-Rhine-Sieg University of Applied Sciences, the University of Bonn and the Institute for Environment and Human Security at the United Nations University (UNU-EHS). Together, the Innovation Campus Bonn (ICB) was established as a platform for society-wide work on a sustainable future. The bonnalliance ICB was officially launched in 2019.

The bonnalliance research will initially be conducted in three directions: How do digitalization and artificial intelligence influence the world economy, the international division of labor, society, politics, systems of order and people's thinking? How will mobility and migration be dealt with in the future? And how can the bioeconomy change the production and consumption of food? The scientific director of the Innovation Campus is Prof. Dr. Jakob Rhyner. More information on the bonnalliance ICB activities can be found on their website. A panel chaired by Jakob Rhyner on "Next frontier challenges: Big Data, AI, digital transformation" during the GDN Conference "Knowledge for Sustainable Development: The Research-Policy Nexus" can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ezKObScUIPE>

University of Bonn Signs MoU with University of Ghana

A delegation from the University of Bonn, Germany, has signed a memorandum of understanding with the University of Ghana to have a meaningful exchange and productive relationship for promotion of research work in Ghana. In brief remarks, Prof. Dr. Stephan

Conermann, Vice-Rector, International Affairs, University of Bonn noted that their partnership with the University of Ghana will offer great benefit for both institutions and research for scholars around the world. The delegation from Bonn was accompanied by ZEFa acting director PD Eva Youkhana. You can read more about the newly established [cooperation on the website of the University of Ghana](#).

New tenure-track professorships at the University of Bonn

The University of Bonn was successful in the German government program for the promotion of young scientists. It received funding for **28 tenure-track professorships** and was thereby awarded more professorships in this funding round than any other university.

The "Tenure Track" gives particularly qualified junior researchers the opportunity, when the interim evaluation of their qualification position is successful, to be promoted to a regular professorship at their university. Through this for Germany and Bonn University new procedure, young researchers will have a perspective for a long-term career in science at an earlier career stage than before. Funding will begin on December 1, 2019. ZEF's senior research **Dr. Lisa Biber-Freudenberger** is one of the new tenure-track professors at the University of Bonn.

A delegation from the University of Bonn and representatives from the University of Ghana signed an MoU (Photo: University of Ghana)





ZEF again ranked among the world's leading Think Tanks

ZEF was ranked for the 8th time in a row by the University of Pennsylvania as one of the top think tanks worldwide, ranking ZEF as one of the top 5% international think tanks. In its 2018 ranking, ZEF was listed in the following categories:

Rank 12: Top Science and Technology Think Tanks

Rank 18: Best University Affiliated Think Tanks

Rank 28: Top Energy and Resource Policy Think Tanks

The University of Pennsylvania publishes its Global Go To Think Tank Index Report on an annual basis. For the 2018 ranking, more than 2,500 journalists, policy makers, scholars and faculty members from all over the world participated.

New study regulations of BIGS-DR

In 2019 a new study regulation for BIGS-DR was approved by the Senate of Bonn University. The elaboration of the regulations was not easy. Due to the **interdisciplinary** nature of BIGS-DR, the **interests of several faculties** had to be considered. The right to award doctoral degrees lies with the participating faculties, while the preparation for doctoral research, interdisciplinary training, the teaching of interdisciplinary key qualifications, international networking, special quality criteria and supervision of doctoral students from abroad are the responsibility of BIGS-DR.

The elaborated regulations are a **model for new interdisciplinary doctoral programs** that are now emerging from the Clusters of Excellence at the University of Bonn. You will find the study regulation on our [website](#). Please note that only the original German version is legally binding, the English translation is being made available as a point of reference for our students and other interested persons only.

ZEF and Scientists for Future

ZEF junior and senior researchers participated (among other demonstrations) on the second Global Climate demonstration in May 2019 Bonn. You will find more impressions from the protest on the [ZEF research blog](#) and ZEF researcher's thoughts on the debate that the Fridays for Future movement has triggered [here](#).

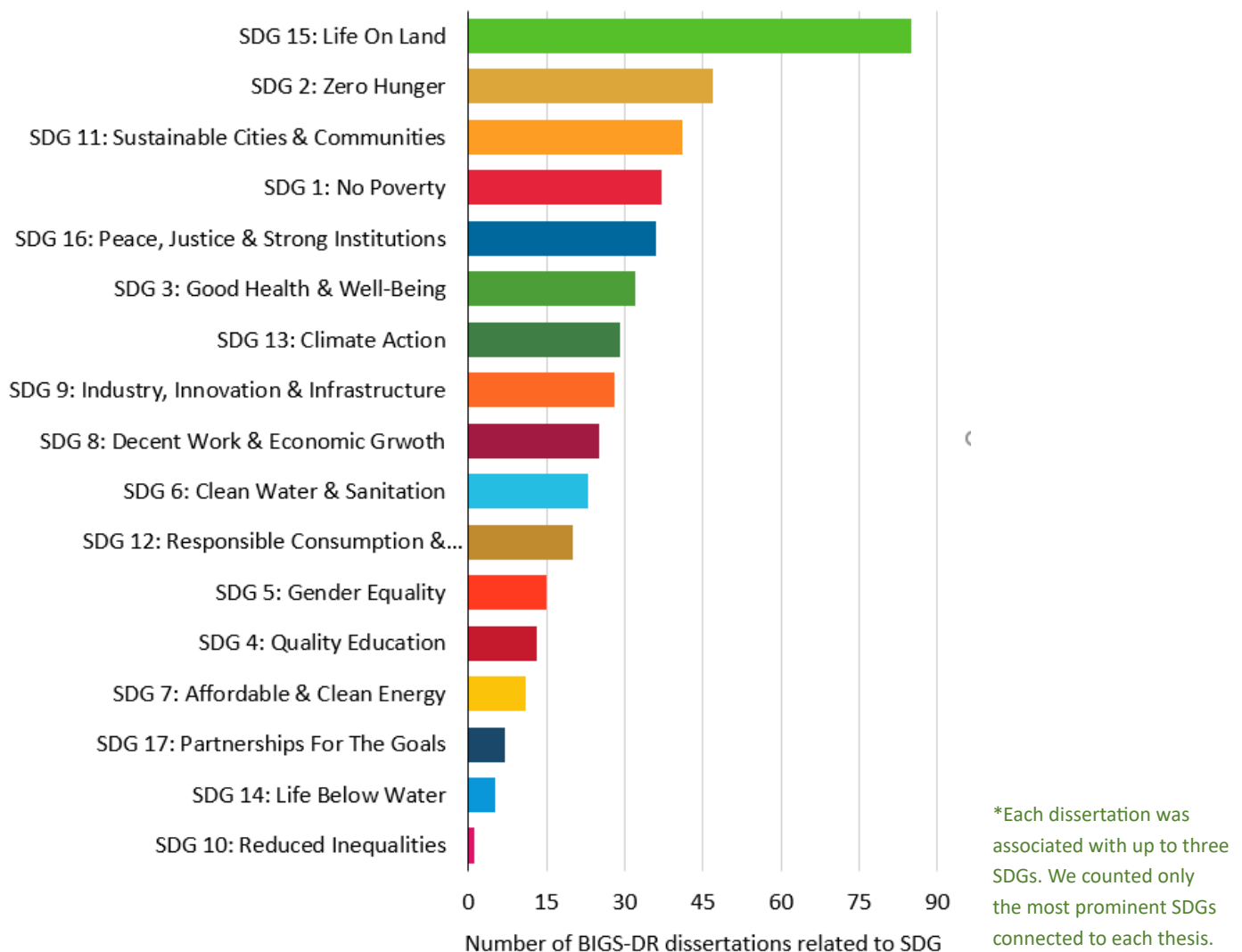


BIGS-DR and the SDGs

Our institute strives to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 goals. We tried to capture which SDGs relate to ZEF's work in practice by looking at BIGS-DR dissertations between 2013 and 2019. This results in the following ranking of top SDGs:



SDG relations of 258 BIGS-DR dissertations
between 2013 and 2019*



The graph shows that doctoral research at BIGS-DR relates to all SDGs but to different degrees. The most prominent SDGs are SDG 15: Life on Land (85 dissertations), SDG 2: Zero Hunger (47 dissertations), SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities (41 dissertations), SDG 1: No Poverty (37 dissertations), SDG 16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions (35

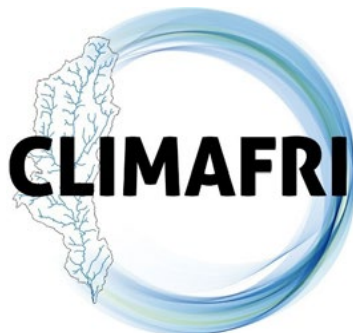
dissertations) and SDG 3: Good Health & Well-Being (32 dissertations). Other SDGs like SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities and SDG 5: Gender Equity, which appear less prominent on the graph, are still considered in many BIGS-DR dissertations, as they are cross-cutting issues.

Recent research projects

You can find a list of all current ZEF projects on our [website](#). We only present a few selected projects on the following page:

CLIMAFRI project kick-off meeting

On June 27, 2019 the kick-off meeting for the CLIMAFRI (Implementing CLIMate-sensitive Adaptation strategies to reduce Flood Risk in the transboundary Lower Mono River catchment) took place in Lomé with partners and stakeholders from Togo, Benin and Germany. The overall aim of the CLIMAFRI project is to reduce current and future flood risks in the transboundary Lower Mono River catchment of Togo and Benin. To achieve this, the project will co-develop and co-implement a river basin information system with climate-sensitive adaptation strategies through the integration of science-based data with information and knowledge from local stakeholders and communities. You can find out more about the project on the [ZEF website](#).



ProciNut first trainings

Malnutrition and food insecurity remain two crucial challenges in Madagascar and Myanmar. That is why ZEF's project ProciNut looks at innovative approaches to process edible insects for improved nutrition. In June 2019, The ProciNut project started its first cricket rearing training in Myanmar. More insights from the trainings can be found on the [ZEF research blog](#) and you can also follow the project on [twitter](#)!



ProciNut training workshop in Wantaung, Myanmar. (Photo: Jochen Dürr)

PRODIGY - Soil Biodiversity Governing Tipping Points in the Amazon

In 2019, the PRODIGY project aims to generate a knowledge base for more sustainable land-use management which is to be based on functional biodiversity of the soil ecosystem and its relationship with social-ecological systems resilience. The project research area is located where the Amazon regions of Peru, Brazil and Bolivia meet, in the so-called MAP region (Madre de Dios in Peru, Acre in Brazil and Pando in Bolivia). PRODIGY is funded by the BMBF and consists of a consortium of research institutions from Peru, Brazil, Bolivia and Germany. Read more about it on the [ZEF website](#).



WAC-SRT launched

In June 2019 the West African Center for Sustainable Rural Transformation (WAC-SRT) was launched in Ghana. The basic element and idea of the WAC-SRT is capacity building. Based on its long-lasting experience ZEF will be leading the collaboration with the University for Development Studies in Ghana and the University Abdou Moumouni in Niger. An additional partner, the Institute for Statistical Social and Economic Research (ISSER) at the University of Ghana, with whom ZEF has been running successfully Graduate Programs such as the Ghanaian German Center for Development Studies, provides additional expertise and staff capacity training for the other African partners. The project is funded by the German Federal Foreign Ministry through the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). You can read more about the collaboration on the [ZEF website](#).



Launch ceremony of the new West African Center for Sustainable Rural Transformation in Ghana (Photo: ZEF)



Helen Mack Chang
Photo: RLC Campus Bonn

Bonn Alliance Spring School 2019

Various ZEF junior and senior researchers participated in 2019's Bonn Alliance spring school on "Global Transformation towards Sustainability" in Bonn in April 2019. The spring school brought together African and German alumni from all disciplines and alumni of the Managing Global Governance Academy (MGG) of DIE. The next spring school of the Bonn Alliance will be in March 2020. You can watch a [video on YouTube](#) on the main outcome of the 2019 spring school.

RLC Bonn Workshop with Laureate Helen Mack Chang

From May 26-29, 2019, the RLC Campus Bonn organized an international workshop on "Mobilization for Change: Marginalized people and their access to opportunities and resources in a developing world". PhD students from all over the world presented and discussed their ongoing research works. You can read more on Helen Mack Chang's inspiring work on the [website of the Right livelihood Foundation](#).

Summer school of the DSSP doctoral students in Bonn and Berlin

The first batch of students from the bilateral Doctoral Studies Support Program (DSSP) on „Environmental peace building and development in Colombia“ of ZEF and the Universidad Nacional, Bogotá, Instituto de Estudios Ambientales (IDEA), stayed in Bonn for two

months as part of their doctoral study program. The students came to Germany in June, to gain firsthand experience in the international environment of ZEF. They also visited Berlin on a four-day trip. You can learn more about the DSSP on its [website](#).



DSSP doctoral students and ZEF staff during a trip to Berlin (Photo: DAAD)

Bonn: RLC Expert workshop with Alumni from sub-Saharan Africa

From July 1 to 3, 2019, the RLC Campus Bonn organized its first Alumni workshop focusing on "Agricultural and Social Transformation – Securing Livelihoods in Sub-Saharan Africa". Seventeen (development) academics and practitioners from more than ten countries in Sub-Saharan Africa presented innovative projects in the areas of natural resource management,

Conferences and workshops in Germany



Participants of the first RLC Alumni workshop in Bonn
(Photo: RLC Campus Bonn)

agricultural transformation, as well as cross-cutting fields like education, health, and governance. Two representatives of 'Alternative Nobel Prize'-awarded organizations attended the event, namely Dr. David Amudavi Right Livelihood Award 2013 Jumanta Gakelebene (Right Livelihood Award 2005). Watch a [talk online](#), which was recorded during the workshop, on "Sustainable development vs. local livelihoods?".

PEGNET conference in Bonn

Social protection is a key instrument for fostering social, economic and political development. The PEGNet Conference 2019 provided a platform for leading development scholars, practitioners and policy-makers to reflect on the determinants, elements, impacts and linkages of effective social protection schemes. On September 9-10, 2019 the PEGNet Conference on "Promoting social, economic and socio-political development through social protection" took place at the Gustav-Stresemann Institute in Bonn. The conference was organized jointly by the German Development Institute (DIE) and ZEF.

"Greening the Future" – RLC Campus Bonn organized workshop with Tony Rinaudo and The Green Belt Movement

From September 15-18, 2019, the RLC Campus Bonn brought together 18 PhD students from 12 countries in Africa and Asia for an interdisciplinary workshop at ZEF. Together with two Laureates of the Right Livelihood Award they worked on sustainable agriculture and

forestry in drylands. Australian Laureate Tony Rinaudo gave insights into agricultural restoration methods, including the prime example of Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR). Wycliffe Matika, Executive Director of the Kenyan Green Belt Movement, funded by "Alternative Nobel Prize" Laureate Wangari Maathai, reported on his grass-root-work towards converting the ecological debate into mass action for reforestation and livelihood security. Watch the [video here](#).



RLA Laureates Tony Rinaudo (left) and Wycliffe Matika (right)
during a public debate at the old townhall in Bonn.

Photo: RLC Campus Bonn

Tropentag 2019 in Kassel, Germany

At the annual Tropentag in Kassel in September 2019, ZEF researchers organized a workshop on “Experiences on integration of local knowledge in monitoring environmental conflicts caused by unsustainable agriculture”. The workshop was organized by Dr. Dennis Avilés (ZEFa senior researcher) and Alejandro Mora Motta (ZEFa junior researcher, RLC scholar).

Hohenheim: World Food Day Colloquium

Henry Kankwamba (ZEFb junior researcher), Shova Shresta and Marwa Shumo (both ZEFc junior researchers) gave short presentations about their doctoral research at the World Food Day Colloquium in Hohenheim on October 16, 2019. They were accompanied by Dr. Günther Manske. You will find more impressions from ZEF's activities at the World Food Day on [ZEF's research blog](#).

BIGS-DR students presenting their research at the World Food Day Colloquium in Hohenheim, from left to right: Henry Kankwamba, Shova Shresta and Marwa Shumo (Photo: World Food Day Colloquium).

RARSUS Online Summer School

In October, the Risk Assessment and Reduction Strategies for Sustainable Urban Resource Supply in Sub-Saharan Africa (RARSUS) project organized a two-week online summer school for qualified Master (and PhD) students in water and energy management. The summer school consisted of individual e-learning courses as well as webinars offered by experts from the water and energy sectors. You can learn more about RARSUS activities on its [website](#).

Potsdam: INSECTA 2019 conference

ZEFc senior researcher Dr. Jochen Dürr participated in the international science gathering organized by the Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomy (ATB) and the Pilot Pflanzenöltechnologie Magdeburg e. V. (PPM) on September 5-6. The international conference offered its visitors an overview of the state-of-the-art technology of insects for food, feed and non-food application, giving important insights related to value chains, food safety, automatization, sustainability issues, etc. You can read more about his experiences there on [the ZEF research blog](#).





Annet Adong, Justice Tmabo, Muntaha Rakib and Nina Pkhikidze meet in Copenhagen at the Nordic Conference of Development Economics in Copenhagen (Photo: private)

Copenhagen: Nordic Conference of Development Economics in Denmark

Four former and current ZEFb students met at the Nordic Conference of Development Economics in Copenhagen, Denmark on June 17-18, 2019. Annet Adong (Uganda, batch 2016) gave a presentation on “Trust and Altruism when exposed to Violent Conflict: Experimental Evidence from Refugee and Host communities in Northern Uganda”. Justice Tambo (alumnus from Ghana, batch 2011) presented on “Plant Clinics, Farm Performance and Poverty Alleviation: Panel Data Evidence from Rwanda”. Muntaha Rakib (Bangladesh, batch 2011) gave a talk on “Impact of Interventions on Inducing Household waste segregation behavior: A randomized controlled trial in Sylhet City Corporation, Bangladesh”. Nina Pkhikidze (Georgia, batch 2015) talked about “Linkages of road infrastructure: impact of rehabilitated roads on access to utility services”.

Tokyo: Partnership in Research

Manfred Denich (ZEFc senior researcher) was invited by the International Program in Agricultural Development Studies (IPADS) of the University of Tokyo, Japan, to give lectures in the IPADS Introductory Course for master and doctoral students on September 16-20, 2019. The lectures covered inter- and transdisciplinary development research, agroforestry, traditional and modern forest-based land-use systems (from research to action including the adoption of agricultural innovations) as well as reflections on scientific collaboration between the global north and south. Furthermore, details of possible joint activities of ZEF and IPADS in the areas of implementation research and plastics in agriculture were discussed with the IPADS director Prof. Kensuke Okada and his colleagues Prof. Hiroe Ishihara and Prof. Mitsuo Yamamoto.

India: Visiting RC 21

In September 2019, a group of ZEFs researchers, among them three members of the “ZEF in the City” research group, traveled to Delhi, India, and other parts of the country. Primary goal was to visit the RC 21 conference. The group included Irit Eguavoen (senior researcher ZEFa, batch 2003), Amit Kumar (RLC scholar, junior researcher ZEFa, batch 2014), Sneha Sharma (junior researcher ZEFa, batch 2015) and Sebastian Forneck (junior researcher ZEFa, batch 2015). You can find out more about their trip on the [ZEF research blog](#).





Dr. Manske and a group of students visiting partner University of Tokyo in Japan in June 2019 (Photo: private)

Günther Manske (academic coordinator BIGS-DR) went with five ZEFc doctoral students, Karen Veridiano, Marwa Shumo, Dorothy Birungi, Tasneen Osman and Vivek Kumar to Japan to participate in a workshop. The workshop was on Resilience of social-ecological systems and common pool resource management on June 11-20, 2019 at the University of Tokyo. It was jointly organized by ZEF and the International Program for Agricultural Development Studies (IPADS) at the University of Tokyo. You can get more information about the trip on the [ZEF research blog](#).

and researchers across the different segments of the SDGs including renowned economist Prof. Jeffrey Sachs. Evelyn participated in the thematic session on “good practices in sustainable food production” chaired by Profs. John Dilyard and Sintia Molina. The parallel sessions and keynote speeches exposed participants to New technologies, trends and impacts as well as the challenges and opportunities to achieving the global SDGs through sustainable production, consumption and policy making.

New York: International Conference on Sustainable Development

In September, ZEFa junior researcher and RLC student Evelyn Ewere attended the 7th “International Conference on Sustainable Development” hosted by Columbia University, New York, USA. The conference brought together several stakeholders, policy makers

Quito: German-Ecuadorian Research Cooperation Programme on Biodiversity and Climate Change

Janina Kleemann (ZEFc, batch 2012) participated in the kick-off of the „German-Ecuadorian Research Cooperation Programme on Biodiversity and Climate Change (CoCiBio)” in Quito, Ecuador on 18-19 November 2019. The project „Ecu-MAES: A National Ecosystem Services Assessment and Mapping for the status and future development of ecosystem services and biodiversity – a fast track study in Ecuador”, led by Prof. Christine Fürst, Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, was one of the three selected project proposals. The Ecuadorian partner is Prof. Pablo Cuenca,



Evelyn Ewere presenting her research at the International Conference on Sustainable Development in New York (Photo: RLC Campus Bonn)



Participants of the kick-off meeting of the „German-Ecuadorian Research Cooperation Programme on Biodiversity and Climate Change in Quito” (Photo: Janina Kleemann)

Universidad Regional Amazónica Ikiam. The CoCiBio programme is conducted by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) on behalf of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ). The central implementing partner in Ecuador is the Ecuadorian Ministry of the Environment (MAE) with its National Institute of Biodiversity (INABIO). You can find our more information online on the project's [website](#).

Dakar: Conference on Climate Change and Food Security in West Africa

The WASCAL project organized a conference in Senegal at University of Dakar (UCAD) from November 18-19,

2019. This conference intended to serve as a platform for exchanging and discussing latest research findings on the relation between climate change and food security in Western Africa, particularly on innovative and cutting-edge solutions and insights related to the conference themes. The conference brought together early career and experienced researchers from economics and other social sciences from the Western Africa region to promote mutual exchanges and collaborations on this crucial topic. Read more on WASCAL's other activities on the [project's website](#).



Prof. Joachim von Braun with participants of the WASCAL “Conference on Climate Change and Food Security in West Africa” in Dakar, Senegal (Photo: Alisher Mirzabaev)



Kavita Rai (ZEFa, 2001) visited ZEF in January 2019. Kavita originally from Nepal, is working at the Energy for Sustainable Development (ESD) London.



Kelemework Tafere Reda (ZEFa, 2002, left) and **Edward Nketiah-Amponsah** (ZEFb, 2006) stopped by in April to visit Dr. Manske on the occasion of a summer school organized by Anna Schwachula (right), also a ZEF alumna (ZEFa, 2011) currently working at DIE in Bonn.



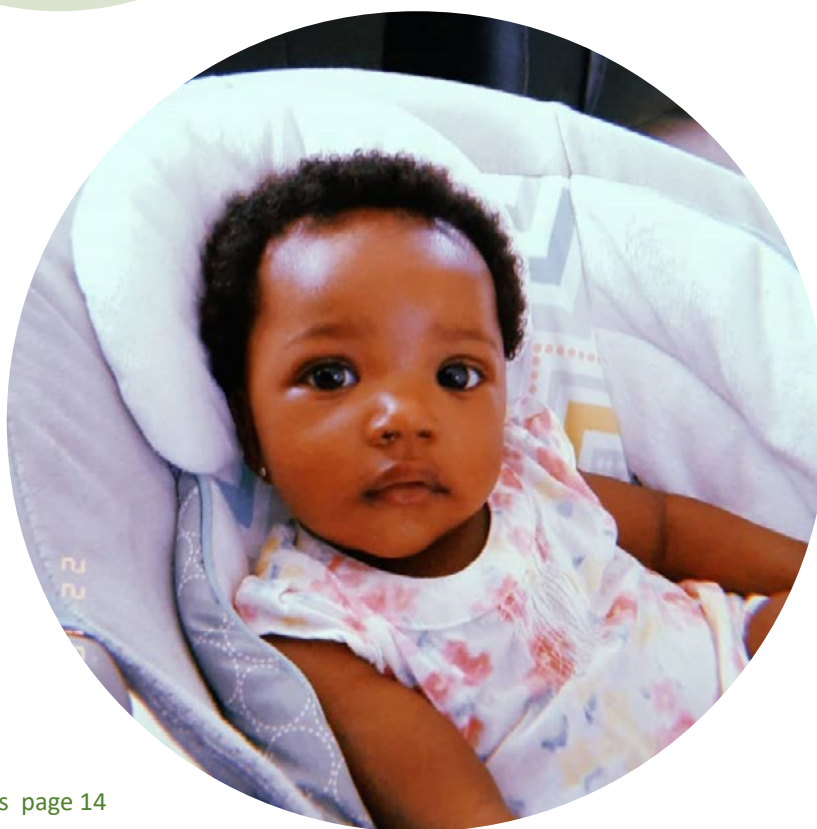
Adama Konseiga (ZEFb, batch 2000, Burkina Faso), **Arisbe Mendoza-Escalante** (ZEFb, batch 2001, Mexico) and **Susanne Ziemek** (ZEFb, batch 2000, Germany) paid a visit to ZEF accompanied by their families. After so many years, they are still staying in contact. Adama Konseiga returned with his family to Africa after many years living in Canada. He is living and working now in Benin. Arisbe Mendoza-Escalante has been working with Fairtrade International (FLO) in Bonn since several years and Susanne Ziemek works with the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in Berlin.

Muntaha Rakib (ZEFb, batch 2011) visited ZEF in September 2019. She is now working as Associate Professor at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology in Bangladesh.

Junior researcher **Elisabeth Ekren** (ZEFa, batch 2016) and her husband **Brand** welcomed their first child, **Margaret Anne Ekren**, on January 5, 2019. She was 4kg and 50.2cm long at birth. She is now almost one year old already. Their family picture is from Easter 2019. We wish them all the best!



Junior researchers **Galia Figueroa Alfonso** (ZEFa, batch 2014) and **Johannes Schielein** (ZEFc, batch 2013) welcomed their second child **Anna Victoria** into their family in October. Congratulations once again to the proud parents, and we look forward to seeing them around ZEF!



Junior researcher **Salamatu Shaibu's** (ZEFc, batch 2017) second daughter **Christable Antwiwaa Tannor** was born on May 21, 2019 and is keeping her family busy. We wish the family all the best!

Before 1999

Rolf Sommer (ZEFc, Germany) has been appointed Director of the Agriculture and Land Use Change department at the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in Germany.

Torsten Feldbruegge (ZEFb, Germany) is now Head of Division Energy and provisional Head of Division Information Technology & Digitalization at the AGRAVIS Raiffeisen AG in Germany.

Batch 1999

Mohammad Mohsin Hafeez (ZEFc, Pakistan) is now Country Representative at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in Pakistan. He is also Adjunct Professor (Water Resources) at the Institute of Water and Hydraulic Research (IWHR), Beijing, and at the Hubei University, China. Before, he was Adjunct Associate Professor and Director (Hydrology) at the Charles Sturt University, Australia.

Romeo Bertolini (ZEFb, Germany) is Deputy Director of NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions) Partnership in Bonn. Launched at COP22 in Marrakesh, the NDC Partnership aims to enhance cooperation so that countries have access to the technical knowledge and financial support they need in order to achieve large-scale climate and sustainable development targets under the Paris Agreement as quickly and effectively as possible.

Batch 2000

Ayodele Ajayi (ZEFb, Nigeria) is now member of the Board of Trustees of a private University in Nigeria, The Afe Babalola University in Ado Ekiti (www.abuad.edu.ng). Currently, he is also a Alexander von Humboldt Senior Research Fellow at the Institut für Pflanzenernährung und Bodenkunde at the University of Kiel, Germany. He works as a Senior Research Fellow (Policy and Renewable Energy Materials) at the Center for Renewable Energy Technology, Federal University of Technology, Nigeria. In September, he visited ZEF together with the Executive Secretary of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund of Nigeria.



Philip G. Oguntunde (ZEFc, Nigeria) is now Deputy Vice Chancellor (Development) and Professor of Agricultural & Environmental Engineering at the Federal University of Technology, Akure Nigeria.

Batch 2001

Denis Lucy Aviles Irahola (ZEFa, Bolivia) has returned to ZEF as a senior researcher. She is part of the Doctoral Studies Support Program on Environmental peace-building and development in Colombia (ZEFa).

Mekuria Argaw Denboba (ZEFc, Ethiopia) is now Executive Director of Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre and Network (HoAREC&N) at the Addis Ababa University. HoAREC&N is working to promote cooperation and knowledge exchange between organisations with environmental expertise, including NGO's, CBO's, research institutions and universities from Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan hoarec.org

Pepijn Schreinemachers (ZEFb, The Netherlands) is Lead Scientist for impact evaluation at the World Vegetable Center in Bangkok, Thailand

Sanaa Mohamed Mahmoud Ashour (ZEFa, Palestine) is now Associate Professor of Sociology at the Al Ain University of Science and Technology, United Arab Emirates.

Kavita Rai (ZEFa, Nepal) is now Deputy Team Lead at the Nepal Renewable Energy Programme.



Batch 2002

Kassahun Tesfaye (ZEFc, Ethiopia) became Director General of the Ethiopian Biotechnology Institute, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ethiopia. He is a founding member of the Ethiopian Young Academy of Sciences (EtYAS) and Associate Professor at the Institute of Biotechnology, Addis Ababa University.

Kerstin Zander (ZEFb, Germany) is now Associate Professor at Charles Darwin University, Australia.



Daniel Tsegai (ZEFb, Eritrea) is Programme Officer at United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Bonn.

Fafre Bagayoko (ZEFc, Mali) has a new position as Chef d'équipe at AFC (Agriculture and Finance Consultants), Mali

Hardwick Tchale (ZEFb, Malawi) is now Senior Agricultural Economist at the World Bank.



Tina Schieder (ZEFb, Germany) is working now as a Researcher at the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB) in Bonn, Germany and

is responsible for evaluations and regulatory work in vocational education and training.

Anke Reichhuber (ZEFb, Germany) is now Lead Agriculture Economist at UNIQUE forestry and land use GmbH, Berlin.

Thuita Thenya (ZEFc, Kenya) is now a senior lecturer at the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace & Environmental Studies (WMI), University of Nairobi, Kenya.

Batch 2003



Sebastian M. Scholz (ZEFb, Germany) has been nominated as a Member of the Board German Energy Storage Association (BVES).

Welyne Jeffrey Jehom (ZEFa, Malaysia) is Director at the Center for Malaysian Indigenous Studies, University of Malaysia.

Batch 2004

Daniel Callo-Concha (ZEFc, Peru) started working as a scientist at the Institute for Environmental Sciences (IES) at the University Koblenz Landau, Campus Landau. There, he is the team coordinator and a researcher with the BMBF project 'Process-based & resilience-oriented management of diversity generates sustainability' (PRODIGY) with duty stations in Bolivia, Brazil, Peru and Germany.

Seid Nuru Ali (ZEFb, Ethiopia) is now Lead Planner and Resident Technical Advisor at the Planning and Development Commission, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.



Makarius Mdemu (ZEFc, Tanzania) became Director at the Institute of Human Settlement Studies (IHSS), Ardhi University, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Lazare Tia (ZEFc, Côte d'Ivoire) is now research team leader of the GéoRESBIO project at the Institute of Tropical Geography (IGT), Research Unit of Humanities and Science of Society, Félix Houphouët-Boigny University, Côte d'Ivoire.

Batch 2005

Neeraj Mishra (ZEFa, India) has now moved to a new institution called National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) under the Ministry of Rural Development in Hyderabad (India) as Associate Professor.



Faisal Abbas (ZEFb, Pakistan) has a new position as Associate Professor at the School of Social Sciences and Humanities (S3H), National University of Science & Technology (NUST), Islamabad, Pakistan

Muhammad Nasir (ZEFb, Indonesia) is Head of Department of the Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Business, Syiah Kuala University, Banda Aceh, Indonesia

Batch 2007

Farhat Naz (ZEFa, India) has a new position as assistant professor of sociology at the Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur (IITJ), India.



Batch 2008

Tapiwa Uchizi Nyasulu-Rweyemamu (ZEFa, Malawi) is now working as Head of Division, Gender Analysis and Monitoring at the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Anastasiya Shtaltovna (ZEFa, Ukraine) joined the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation in September 2019. She serves at two committees: Communications Committee and Strategic Partnership.



Hart Feuer (ZEFa, USA) is working as Junior Associate Professor, Division of Natural Resource Economics, Internationalization Initiative, Laboratory of the Philosophy of Agricultural Science, Faculty/Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University, Japan

Batch 2009



Tania Osejo Carrillo (ZEFc, Nicaragua) has taken up a position as cash-based transfer programme officer at the World Food Programme in Rome.

Sven Genschick (ZEFa, Germany) has returned to Germany after having worked for four years at the World Fish Center in Malaysia and Zambia. He is now working as advisor at the GIZ in Eschborn near Frankfurt.



Quy-Hahn Nguyen (ZEFa, Vietnam) has a new position as social consultant at Environment Resource Management (ERM) in Vietnam. He is also co-founder and senior researcher at the Center for Knowledge Co-creation and Development Research in Hue, Vietnam.

Tilman Schachtsiek (ZEFc, Germany) has been appointed as a Speaker for Parliamentary Affairs at the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) in Berlin, Germany.

Philipp Baumgartner (ZEFb, Germany) is now Country Program Manager at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Southern Africa Hub Office, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Batch 2010

José Luis Viveros Añorve (ZEFb, Mexico) is Officer, Employers' Activities (ACT/EMP) at the International Labour Organization (ILO) headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. He co-authored the ILO global report on women in business and management. It is an evidence-based research that seeks to contribute to the ongoing debate on gender diversity and equality at the workplace. You can find the report online.



Thi Phuong Linh Huynh (ZEFa, Vietnam) is now researcher at the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) in the Mekong Environmental Changes and Inequalities Project.

Jonas Ayaribilla Akudugu (ZEFa, Ghana) has changed to the Department of Planning and Sustainability, University of Energy and Natural Resources, Sunyani, Ghana.

Batch 2011

Muntaha Rakib won the third prize for best poster at the PEGNet Conference 2019 in Bonn. The conference focused on "Promoting social, economic and socio-political development through social protection". Muntaha's poster was about "Impact of Interventions on Inducing Household Waste Segregation Behavior: A Randomized Controlled Trial in Sylhet City Corporation, Bangladesh".

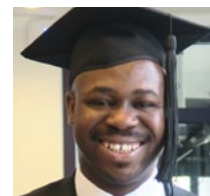
Anna Schwachula (ZEFa, Germany) won the Campus Prize of the University of Bremen for sustainability research with her dissertation on German science policy for research cooperation with developing countries and emerging economies in sustainability research. Based on qualitative empirical data, Anna Schwachula examined the orientation of the funding policy of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) towards sustainability goals, the basis for decision-making, the people involved and the effects of policy in her thesis. Her thesis was published as a book and can be found [here](#).



Prize winner Anna Schwachula between two other prizewinners at the awarding in Bremen. (Photo: Günther Manske)

Batch 2012

Charles Yaw Okyere (ZEFc, Ghana) was appointed as lecturer at the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness at the University of Ghana, Legon.



Hugo Rosa da Conceicao (ZEFa, Brazil) is now Policy Officer – Forests at CDP in Berlin. CDP is a not-for-profit charity that runs the global disclosure system for investors, companies, cities, states and regions.

Sophoanrith Ro (ZEFc, Cambodia) became Vice-Dean for "Graduate Program" and "English-based Program" at the Faculty of Agronomy, Royal University of Agriculture, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Evelyne Nyathira Kihui (ZEFb, Kenya) is now working at the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis, Nairobi, Kenya.

Irfan Mujahid (ZEFb, Indonesia) is now Senior Officer at the Analysis and Monitoring on Trade, Industry and Emerging Issues Division of the ASEAN Integration Monitoring Directorate, The ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Batch 2013



Mohammad Monirul Hasan (ZEFb, Bangladesh) is currently serving as Market and Policy Advisor at Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Dhaka.

Daniel Alejandro Rozas Vásquez (ZEFc, Chile) is now Director of the Excellence Area Geography at the Catholic University of Temuco, Chile.



Denise Margaret Matias (ZEFc, Philippines) became Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Institute for Social-Ecological Research (ISOE) in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

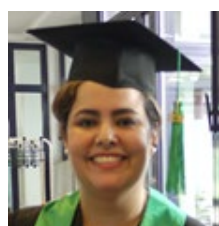


Fazlullah Akhtar (ZEFc, Afghanistan) became Infrastructure (Water) Expert at the Office of the Chief Advisor to the President, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Batch 2014

Getachew Feye (ZEFc, Ethiopia) has taken up a new position as Technology Transfer Officer at International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Ethiopia.

Bibiana Betancur (ZEFc, Colombia) moved back to Germany to work for



the Senckenberg Gesellschaft für Naturforschung in Görlitz in the BONARES project. Her function is to elucidate and quantify the effects of agricultural practices on soil animal communities, through meta-analyses primarily

concerning tillage and fertilization regimes at species- and functional-group level. The results of the meta-analyses will be then included in models of agricultural methods on soil functionality.

Kokou Adambounou Amouzou (ZEFc, Togo) is Coordinator of the West Africa Program. African Plant Nutrition Institute (APNI), Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa.

Essa Chanie Mussa (ZEFb, Ethiopia) is assistant professor at the University of Gondar, Ethiopia. He was recently mentioned in the Daily Observer, a daily newspaper in Liberia. The article was on "Under-skilled Youth Often Accept Mismatched Jobs out of Desperation". You can read the article online.

Marwa Shumo (ZEFc, Sudan) has joined the Insect Technology Center (ITC) of the Hermetia Baruth GmbH/Katz Biotech AG in Berlin as an R&D Scientist. She will contribute to the company's research activities related to the EU funded SUSINCHAIN project.

Batch 2015

Florent Noulekoun (ZEFc, Benin) is now research professor at the Div. Environment Science & Biotechnology at the College of Life Science and Biotechnology, Korea University, Seoul.

Till Ludwig (ZEFb, Germany) rejoined the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) as advisor in Bonn.

Olabisi Badmos (ZEFc, Nigeria) found a postdoc position for two years at the Humboldt University in Berlin where she will continue her research on slum dynamics in Nigeria. The research is funded by the Geo.X academy.

Batch 2016

Annet Adong (ZEFb, Uganda) won a prize for her poster which was ranked second-best at the PEGNet Conference 2019 in Bonn. The conference focused on "Promoting social, economic and socio-political development through social protection". Annet's poster was on "Trust and Altruism when Exposed to Violent Conflict: Experimental Evidence from Refugee and Host Communities in Northern Uganda".

Nani Metchanun (ZEFc, Thailand) published a video presentation about her doctoral research project, "Modelling gene drives to eliminate malaria in the Democratic Republic of Congo", which was awarded the third prize from the Wellcome Trust's Malaria Data-Reuse Prize. In her research, she examines the effects

and costs of various malaria vector control measures and malaria elimination strategies in the Democratic Republic of Congo. You can find the video [here](#).

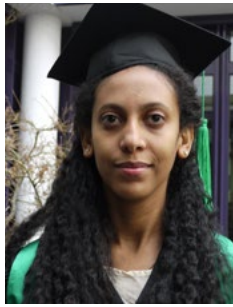
Former ZEF senior researcher

Lili Jia (ZEFa, China) is now senior researcher associate at University of Cambridge. Her views about decision-making and on motivating actions to reduce plastic pollution were published in Nature Communications.

Other alumni activities

Two former ZEF doctoral students from the batch 2011 **Valerie Graw** (ZFL, Germany) and **Jose Jara** (ZEFc, Ecuador) have successfully developed a new project on Renewable Energy for the Amazonians – A project with local indigenous community involvement in the Amazon Rainforest of Ecuador. The project is supported by the World Bank's Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) with financing from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), the Government of Korea, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland. You can find more information on the project online.

Helen Berga Paulos (ZEFb, Ethiopia) successfully defended her thesis January 25, 2019. The topic of her thesis is “The Water-Energy-Food Nexus in the Eastern Nile Basin: Transboundary Interlinkages, Climate Change and Scope for Cooperation”. The dissertation is published [online](#).



Ephraim Sekyi-Annan (ZEFc, Ghana) successfully defended his thesis on February 4, 2019. The topic of his thesis is “Performance evaluation of reservoir-based irrigation schemes in the Upper East Region of Ghana”. The dissertation is published [online](#).



Till Ludwig (ZEFb, Germany) successfully defended his thesis on May 9, 2019. The topic of his thesis is “Consumption Choices. The effects of food production, markets and preferences on diets in India”. You can watch his full defense [online](#).

Olabisi Sakirat Badmos (ZEFc, Nigeria) successfully defended her thesis on March 19, 2019. The topic of her thesis is “An Integrated Remote Sensing and Urban Growth Model Approach to Curb Slum Formation in Lagos Megacity”. The dissertation is published [online](#).



Isaac Mbeche Nyang'au (ZEFa, Kenya) successfully defended his thesis on May 28, 2019. The topic of his thesis is “Boundary work and agricultural innovation systems: Stakeholder interaction and learning using an example of push-pull technology in Ethiopia”. The dissertation is published [online](#).



Rabia Chaudhry (ZEFa, Pakistan) successfully defended her thesis on July 9, 2019. The topic of her thesis is “An Army with a country: How the Pakistan military imposes hegemony via the infrastructure and welfare sectors”. See an interview where she explains her research [here](#).



Darius Mwingyine (ZEFa, Ghana) successfully defended his thesis on July 10, 2019. The topic of his thesis is “Emergent Land Commodification and Inter-generational Land Relations in North-western Ghana”. The dissertation is published [online](#).



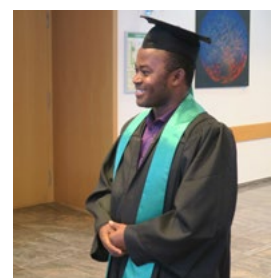
Richard Kyalo (ZEFc & icipe, Kenya) successfully defended his thesis on July 10, 2019. The topic of his thesis is “Challenges and opportunities of using ecological and remote sensing variables for crop pest and disease mapping”. The dissertation is published [online](#).

Gohar Ghazaryan (ZEFc & ZFL, Armenia) successfully defended her thesis on October 8, 2019. The topic of her thesis is “Analysis of long-term land surface dynamics in Ukraine observed by satellite sensors”.



Michael Mensah (ZEFc, Ghana) successfully defended his thesis on October 16, 2019. The topic of his thesis is “Gender roles in Agriculture and natural resources management in upper east region, Ghana”. The dissertation is published [online](#).

David Boansi (ZEFb, Ghana) successfully defended his thesis on October 30, 2019. The topic of his thesis is “Extreme weather events in Sudan Savanna Region of West Africa: agricultural impacts and adaptation”. The dissertation is published [online](#).



Gabisel Barsallo Alvarado (ZEFa, Panama) successfully defended her thesis on December 17, 2019. The topic of her thesis is “Decisions, Practices and Priorities: A Qualitative Study on University Dropout and Personal Development in Panama”.

Aftab Nasir (ZEFa, Pakistan) successfully defended his thesis on December 18, 2019. The topic of his thesis is “Language choice as a gate-keeping practice: An exploration into the psycho-social impacts of multilingualism through case studies from the educational and judicial sectors of Pakistan”.

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All our alumni and former researchers are listed under the [staff section on the ZEF website](#). Make sure your profile is up-to-date by [logging](#) in to the ZEF intranet on our homepage by using your ZEF login and password. **Your Alumni profile on the ZEF website is the more valuable for you the more you keep it up-to date.** If you have any questions about your ZEF profile, email us at biggs-dr@uni-bonn.de!

We also updated our data protection policy in 2019 in accordance with the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR/DSGVO). You can find our updated Data Protection Policy (DPP) on our [ZEF website](#) (in German). The DPP also covers your Alumni profile on the ZEF website. Please note, that **by law we can only keep your profile online, if you actively consented to it.**

New ZEF calendar 2020

The new ZEF calendar for 2020 is available now! It shows another series of amazing pictures taken by our ZEF researchers from all over the world. If you are interested in receiving a calendar, please send your address to Dr. Manske ([gmanske\(at\)uni-bonn.de](mailto:gmanske(at)uni-bonn.de)).

DEVCO Academy: free online learning platform for development

The DEVCO Academy is a public learning platform created by the European Commission and openly accessible to the entire development community. This new platform was launched in April 2018 and it provides free access to learning resources covering a wide range of relevant topics, including development policies, thematic areas, methodological approaches and financial management. These topics are presented in four different learning formats: e-learning courses, webinars, video and documents. At the moment, the program is available in English only, but will in future provide for German, French, Spanish and Portuguese as well. You can access the platform via its [website](#). If you have any questions, please get in touch with Ms. Franziska Krüger: devco-academy@ec.europa.eu

Stay connected - ZEF social media

Keep in touch with ZEF, BIGS-DR and other alumni through social media. Our network of users across all platforms continues to grow—so join us!



Preview our upcoming events and institute related news on our [Facebook](#). Join the [Facebook alumni group](#) to stay in touch with current and former ZEF researchers and find out what they're doing today.



Start [tweeting](#) @ZEFbonn and follow us to see where we are and what we're doing. Some events are recorded live, where you can join us and chat via Periscope. Missed an event? No problem—head over to our [YouTube](#) page to re-watch talks and lectures!



More into visual culture? Our [Instagram](#) account gives you a snapshot of working and studying, and even a behind-the-scenes sneak peek of how things are done at ZEF. Post your own photos and share with us by tagging #ZEF!



If you're looking for something more professional, connect with us via [LinkedIn](#). You'll find updates about projects and collaborations, and have the opportunity to network with other researchers connected to ZEF.



Finally, take a look at the [ZEF blog](#), a researcher-run space where individuals share stories and reflect about their work, both in and out of the field. The ZEF blog is written by senior and junior researchers, bringing personal experiences to the forefront.

Say hello to other ZEF alumni



Want to stay connected to other ZEF alumni and expand your network? Now it gets even easier: the [German Association of Postgraduate Programmes with special Relevance to Developing Countries \(AGEP\)](#) is an umbrella organization comprising various postgraduate study programs oriented to developing and threshold countries as well as countries with economies in transition. AGEP offers a number of international programs with different specializations for alumni, including workshops, webinars and didactic events. Join AGEP to explore your opportunities and expand your scope! Connect to AGEP by registering through the [alumniportal-deutschland](#) and searching for the group AGEP – Network. You can also join the **Alumni Association of the University of Bonn** by registering on [its website](#) to remain an active part of our university family. Through the Uni Bonn Alumni Network, your university would like to keep in touch with you, keep you informed of current developments at your Alma mater, and, of course, also learn how you are doing after your time at the University of Bonn.

