



Led  
by:



## SECOND CIRCULAR

### TROPILAKES2015

#### Tropical lakes in a changing environment



#### What?

TropiLakes2015 Conference: Tropical lakes in a changing environment

#### Website?

<https://geoweb.ugent.be/tropilakes2015/>

#### Focus?

Tropical lakes (natural and man-made), environmental change impacts:

climate, water balance, hydrology, water management, geomorphology and soils, wetlands, catchment management, human impact, land use changes, land degradation, soil erosion, sediment budget, soil and water conservation, ecosystem services, aquatic ecology, hydropower, impact of large dams, food production chain, waste(water) management

## **When?**

Wednesday 23 to Tuesday 29 September 2015

## **Where?**

Bahir Dar, Lake Tana shore, Ethiopia

## **Why?**

Natural and man-made lakes in the tropics play a crucial role for the livelihood of many people. Due to climatic and land use changes, these water bodies may be threatened : e.g. increased water demand or climate change leading to a shift in the water balance and lake levels, increased land degradation and soil erosion in the riparian zones leading to sediment pollution and deposition in the lakes, thereby reducing their storage capacity, change in ecosystem services and hence the livelihood for the people that depend on these lakes.



## **CONFERENCE THEMES**

1. Climate change impacts on water balance, hydrology and meteorology of tropical lakes;
2. Land use changes and their impacts on geomorphology and soils: land degradation, soil erosion, sediment budget, soil and water conservation;
3. Ecosystem services, water quality and aquatic ecology of shallow lakes;
4. Tropical lakes as palaeo-environmental archives;
5. Impacts of dams on downstream rivers, water bodies and livelihood;
6. Agricultural development; food and fiber production chains; landscape intensification;
7. Waste (water) management and impact on lakes; and
8. Aquatic biodiversity in relation to large-scale water developments.



## **CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS**

**Submission deadline for African researchers who request financial support:** 1 May 2015

**Submission deadline for participants not requesting financial support:** 31 May 2015

All submissions must be sent to [sil.lanckriet@ugent.be](mailto:sil.lanckriet@ugent.be)

### **Submission of Abstracts for Presentations and Posters**

Abstracts of up to 500 words for Presentations and Posters can be submitted for peer review. Please indicate your preference while submitting. A selection of accepted papers will be published in two international peer-reviewed journals as special issues. (Hydrology and Earth System Sciences; Land Degradation and Development).

### **Format**

Abstract is limited to one A4-size page, text only without any figures or tables. Top, bottom, left, and right margins 25 mm.

Title: Upper and lower case, left justified, Times font, 14 pt bold.

Contributors' names: Upper and lower case, left justified, first name first, surname last,

Times font, 11 pt.

Affiliation: Upper and lower case, left justified, Times font, 10 pt. Numbered

Superscripts should be used to indicate the affiliation of each contributor.

E-mail address can be added in parentheses at the end of the contributor's affiliation.

Main text: Single-spaced text, Times 10 pt font, no section headings.



## VENUE

The symposium will be held at RahNile Hotel in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. Bahir Dar is about 500 km northwest of the capital city, Addis Ababa, and has several daily air links with Addis.

The city lies adjacent to Lake Tana, the largest lake in the country.

*“Lake Tana lies in a wide depression in the Ethiopian Plateau and with an area of 3077 km<sup>2</sup>. The lake is shallow with an average depth of 9 m. The outlets of the lake are the Blue Nile (natural surface outflow at the southern shore) and a tunnel hydropower outlet; its outflow contributes about 7% of the Blue Nile flow at the Ethio-Sudanese border. Lake Tana basin is 15,077 km<sup>2</sup> and according to water balance studies using measured discharge in the gauged catchments and assuming a runoff coefficient of 0.22 for the ungauged ones, about 93% of the annual inflow to the lake is estimated to come from four large rivers: Gilgel Abbay, Megech, Gumara and Rib Rivers.” (Mekete et al., 2014)*

## **Recommended hotels**

RahNile Hotel: <http://rahnilehotel.com/> (official venue of the conference)

Jacaranda Hotel: <http://jacarandahotelbahirdar.com/>

Kuriftu Resort: <http://kurifturesortspa.com/>

Homeland Hotel: <http://homlandhotelbahirdar.com/>

As there are a lot of hotels in the city, please have a look at some tourist guides. For smaller hotels (Dib Anbessa, Blue Nile Hotel, Tadesse Pension, Summerland Hotel), the organizers can make your hotel reservation ([wasetana2011@gmail.com](mailto:wasetana2011@gmail.com), [sil.lanckriet@ugent.be](mailto:sil.lanckriet@ugent.be)).



## **Currency**

The Ethiopian currency is the Ethiopian Birr. 1 Ethiopian Birr = more or less 0.05 Euro. A currency exchange facility (with reasonable exchange rate) is available in the airport building in the luggage-arrival hall. Otherwise any bank or big hotel can exchange your currency.

You can pin money with VISA or Mastercard at several banks in Bahir Dar.

## **Language**

The language of this part of Ethiopia is Amharic, which has its own script that was derived from Geéz. In the city, people will speak and read English.

## **Internet access**

Internet access is available both in Addis and Bahir Dar.

## **Insurance – responsibility**

Liability insurance is the responsibility of each individual participant. Participants should have their own medical coverage. The workshop conveners cannot be held liable for lost items.

## **Requirements**

Most countries need a tourist visa for entering Ethiopia and a passport still valid 6 months after return date. Nationals from some countries can get a visa on arrival, paying US\$ 20 or 17 EUR cash (one month stay). Please check the nearest Ethiopian Embassy for visa requirements.

Yellow fever vaccination is compulsory.

## **PROGRAMME**

**Pre-conference excursion**, jointly with local stakeholders: Wednesday 23 to Friday 25 September 2015.

**TropiLakes2015**: Friday 25 September (evening) to Tuesday 29 September 2015:

Friday evening 25 September: icebreaker and registration

Saturday morning 26 September: official opening and beginning of sessions

Saturday afternoon: conference sessions (oral and posters)

Sunday 27 September: **mid conference excursion** by boat on Lake Tana.

Monday 28 September: conference sessions (oral and posters)

Monday evening: conference dinner

Tuesday morning 29 September: summary of sessions, networking meetings

Tuesday afternoon: official closure of the conference



## Keynote speakers

Prof. Dr. L.A. (Sampurno) Bruijnzeel, Chair of Land Use and Hydrology, VU University Amsterdam, and Visiting Senior Research Fellow, King's College London:  
<http://www.hydrology-amsterdam.nl/personalpages/Sampurno.html>

Dr. Dagnatchew Legesse, IAEA Isotope Hydrology Section, Vienna:  
[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Dagnachew\\_Legesse\\_Belachew](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Dagnachew_Legesse_Belachew)

Prof. Dr. Harry Verhoeven, Water Politics in Africa, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford/Georgetown University:  
<http://www.politics.ox.ac.uk/index.php/profile/harry-verhoeven.html>



## EXCURSIONS

**Pre-conference excursion**, jointly with local stakeholders: Wednesday 23 to Friday 25 September 2015.

Extensive visit of Lake Tana basin, including major rivers, monitoring stations, catchments, lake shores, wetlands, forests, hot springs, research sites of the Wase-Tana project. Visit of Tana-Beles hydropower plant, including Beles valley (artificial outflow of Lake Tana). A separate price will be charged, including two overnights (Bahir Dar and Gondar).

**Mid-conference excursion**, Sunday 27 September: Excursion by boat on Lake Tana with presentation of research findings: Dek island (transect walk through the particular agro-ecosystem of the island; visit of monastery) – Dega Estefanos island (visit of coffee plantations and historical church) – delta of Gumara River – hippo sighting – participation in the traditional Meskel bonfire (5 PM). Presentation of major research findings; fish and bird specialists will be on board.



## REGISTRATION FEE AND FUNDING

### Fees

	Early bird rate, received before 31 May 2015	Normal rate, received before 20 August 2015
International	300 €	400 €
PhD student	150 €	200 €
Ethiopian	400 ETB (pay to Ethiopian account)	500 ETB (pay to Ethiopian account)
Accompanying person (excursion, conference dinner, all catering)	150 €	150 €
Pre-congress excursion	150 €	150 €

Inclusions: All congress sessions, Book of abstracts, Welcome reception, Coffee breaks, Lunches, Poster cocktails, Conference dinner

### Registration for international participants

! Registration is possible till 20 August 2015. The following link allows registering:

<https://congres.ugent.be/tropilakes2015/>



## **Registration for Ethiopian participants**

! Registration is possible till 20 August 2015. All Ethiopian participants are requested to register by email to [sil.lanckriet@ugent.be](mailto:sil.lanckriet@ugent.be) and will then be requested to pay to an Ethiopian bank account.

! In the email, make sure that you include all of the following elements: your title, first and last name; your institution; date of birth; the address, postal code, city and country; your phone and email address; the title of your abstract; your preference for oral or poster presentation; your choice to participate in the mid-excursion (included in the registration fee) and in the pre-excursion (extra cost of 150 euro).

## **Financial support for African researchers**

Thanks to funding obtained from VLIR (Belgium), the organizers will be able to cover the costs of conference participation by 16 qualified African researchers. The funding will cover: conference registration, Economy class airplane ticket, accommodation and full board, participation in pre- and mid-conference tours. More detailed information is on our website: <http://geoweb.ugent.be/tropilakes2015/registration/>

## **Cancellation of Congress Registration**

Cancellations of Congress registrations must be made in writing to Sil Lanckriet via fax, post or email. Cancellations or changes will not be accepted over the phone.

## **WASE-TANA**

This conference will be the closing event of the WaSe-Tana project. WaSe-Tana is a demand-driven action research project to (1) increase the understanding of hydrology and sediment in order to develop tools and strategies that would contribute to proper planning and management of land and water resources of the Lake Tana basin, and hence (2) enhance the capacity of Bahir Dar University and local institutions and to promote integration among stakeholders dealing with land and water issues. The project, funded by VLIR-UOS is carried out by Bahir Dar University, UGent, KU Leuven and the Amhara Regional Bureaus of Water Resource Development as well as Environmental Protection and Land Use Administration.

The website of Wase-Tana: <http://geoweb.ugent.be/physical-geography/research/wase-tana>

For practical questions, please contact Sil Lanckriet at [sil.lanckriet@ugent.be](mailto:sil.lanckriet@ugent.be)



## ORGANIZERS

### Organizers

- Wase-Tana project
- Ghent University
- Bahir Dar University
- KU Leuven
- Amhara Regional Bureau of Water Resources,
- Amhara Regional Bureau of Environmental Protection and Land Administration
- VLIR-UOS
- International Water Management Institute

### Organising committee

Prof. Dr. Jan Nyssen (Ghent University, geography – Northern Ethiopia)

Prof. Dr. Enyew Adgo (BDU, soil science – Lake Tana)

Prof. Dr. Jean Poesen (KU Leuven, geography)

Prof. Dr. Niko Verhoest (Ghent University, hydrology)

Prof. Dr. Seppe Deckers (KU Leuven, land management)

Drs. Mekete Dessie (BDU and Ghent University, hydrology – Lake Tana)

Drs. Sil Lanckriet (UGent, Belgium, environmental changes – Lake Ashenge)

Drs. Hanibal Lemma (BDU and Ghent University, sediment transport – Lake Tana)

Ms. Birtukan Tamiru (Wase-Tana project, VLIR-UOS and Bahir Dar University)

Mr. Deribew Fante (Wase-Tana project, VLIR-UOS and Bahir Dar University)

Ms. Selamawit Girmay (Graben project, VLIR-UOS and Mekelle University)

Mr. Stefan Strohmeier (University NRLS Vienna, Austria, hydrology – Lake Tana basin)

Dr. Wassie Anteneh (BDU, fisheries – Lake Tana)

Dr. Yihenew Gebreselassie (BDU, soil science – Lake Tana basin)

Mr. Goraw Goshu (BDU, water quality management – Blue Nile Water Institute)

Dr. Getachew Fisseha (BDU, soil science – Lake Tana basin)

Dr. Getachew Alemayehu (BDU, agronomy – Lake Tana basin)

Mr. Seleshie Mesfine (Bureau of Water Resource Development – Amhara region)

Mr. Melesachew Fente (Bureau of EPLU Administration – Amhara Region)

Dr. Louise Karlberg (Stockholm Environment Institute – biomass for cooking and livestock)

Dr. Petra Schmitter (International Water Management Institute – reservoir/dam operations)

Dr. Simon Langan (International Water Management Institute – Head of Addis Office)

### **Scientific committee**

Prof. Dr. Jan Nyssen (Ghent University, geography – Northern Ethiopia)

Prof. Dr. Enyew Adgo (BDU, soil science – Lake Tana)

Prof. Dr. Jean Poesen (KU Leuven, geography)

Prof. Dr. Niko Verhoest (Ghent University, hydrology)

Prof. Dr. Seppe Deckers (KU Leuven, land management)

Prof. Dr. Didas Kimaro (Sokoine University, land and water – Lake Victoria shores)

Prof. Dr. Feleke Woldeyes (president Arba Minch University – Lake Abaya and Chamo)

Prof. Dr. Luc De Meester (KU Leuven, Belgium, aquatic ecology – many tropical lakes)

Prof. Dr. Steven Loiselle (Siena University, Italy – EAGLO = Great Lakes Observatory)

Prof. Dr. Tammo Steenhuis (Cornell University, USA & BDU, hydrology – Lake Tana)

Prof. Dr. Valentijn Pauwels (Monash University, Australia, hydrology – Lake Tana basin)

Prof. Dr. Katrien Descheemaeker, Wageningen University, plant-water-livestock interaction

Prof. Dr. Andreas Klik (BOKU, Vienna)

Dr. Amaury Frankl (Ghent University, Belgium, hydrogeomorphology)

Dr. Eltigani E. Abdelgalil (Water Man. and Irrigation Institute, University of Gezira, Sudan)

Dr. Eshete Dejen (IGAD, Djibouti, fisheries)

Dr. Ferdas Ziadat (ICARDA, solicited)

Dr. Gete Zeleke (Water and Land Resource Centre (WLRC), Addis Ababa)

Dr. Irit Eguavoen (University of Bonn, Social Anthropology/ African Studies – Blue Nile)

Dr. Leo Nagelkerke (Wageningen University, Netherlands, aquatic ecology – Lake Tana et al.)

Dr. Negash Wagesho (Arba Minch University, Ethiopia, hydrology – Lake Abaya and Chamo)

Dr. Nigussie Haregeweyn (Tottori University, Japan, reservoir catchments in Ethiopia)

Dr. Seifu A. Tilahun (BDU, hydrology – Lake Tana basin)

Dr. Teklu Erkossa (International Water Management Institute, Addis Ababa – solicited)

Dr. Tilahun Amede (ICRISAT, intensification of agricultural landscapes)

Dr. Wondimu Bayu (ICARDA, agronomy – Lake Tana basin)