

Call for Applications: Bioindicators in Freshwater Ecosystems Training

FEB 24 - MARCH 2, 2025



For Conservation
Practitioners, Researchers
and Graduate Students

ABOUT THE TRAINING

Grumeti Fund, in collaboration with the University of Florida, is hosting a five-day workshop on freshwater ecosystems at Grumeti Game Reserve, Serengeti, Tanzania. The workshop will focus on the application of the South African Scoring System (SASS5) and Tanzania River Scoring System (TARISS) for macroinvertebrate biomonitoring. Participants will learn proper sampling protocols at the Rubana and Grumeti Rivers, correct site selection and assessing habitat suitability, and aquatic macroinvertebrate identification. The course will cover theoretical and practical aspects, including site selection, sample collection & sorting, data management using Google Sheets, and data analysis using R Studio. This hands-on training aims to enhance freshwater ecosystem monitoring and conservation efforts in the region.

Topics covered

1. Application of the SASS5 and TARISS methods
2. Demonstration of the correct sampling protocols at Rubana and Grumeti River
3. Demonstration of the correct site selection and assessing habitat suitability
4. Identification of aquatic macroinvertebrates
5. Data management using Google Sheets and data and data analysis using R Studio.

*Complete course outline will be shared with selected individuals.

Who should apply: Tanzanian Researchers, Ecologists, and Graduate students working or planning to work on the Freshwater ecosystems.

Benefits and expectations

A total of 10 participants will be selected for this training. The Grumeti Fund will cover public ground transportation, on-site accommodation, and three meals per day for all participants. Please note that no stipend will be provided. Participants are encouraged to maintain contact with the Grumeti Fund after the training for continued technical support and potential future collaborations.

How to apply: Fill the application form by clicking the following [google form link](#).

Deadline for applications: February 12, 2025, at 23:59 EAT. Due to high volume of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

For any questions about applications contact us through RISE@grumetifund.org



Meet the Trainers



JOSHUA BENJAMIN

Joshua is a PhD candidate and Teaching Assistant in the Department of Biology at the University of Florida, USA. His doctoral research focuses on longitudinal changes in fish assemblages, macroinvertebrate communities, and trace element concentrations in Afrotropical rivers. He is also pursuing certificates in Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) and Sustainable Development Practice (SDP). Joshua holds a Joint MSc in Environmental Science (Limnology and Wetlands Management) from BOKU University in Austria and IHE-Delft in the Netherlands. He earned his bachelor's in environmental studies from Karatina University in Kenya.

He is accredited in SASS Aquatic Biomonitoring technique and trained in GIS, Remote Sensing (IHE-Delft), and advanced data analysis (University of Groningen). Joshua is the Founder and Managing Director of Kenya's Freshwater Guardians Organization (FGO). His accolades include grants from the WWF-EFN, Rufford Foundation, National Geographic Society, Explorers Club, and Sigma Xi, as well as a Certificate of Outstanding Merit and a Graduate Student Mentoring Award from the University of Florida. Further details, including his publications, can be found on his ResearchGate profile, [Joshua Benjamin](#).



PROF. CHARLES MWITHALI M'ERIMBA

Associate Professor in the Aquatic Sciences Department at Egerton University, Kenya. He studied for his PhD in natural sciences at the University of Vienna, Austria, graduating in 2004. He is the Director of the Board of Postgraduate Studies, effective 27th January 2025. Prof. M'Erimba previously served as the Director of Linkages and Collaborations, where he played a pivotal role in fostering partnerships and collaborations. His tenure as Coordinator of the Njoro River Rehabilitation Project led to the successful restoration of 25 acres of forest at the river's source in Entiyani, Narok, and the reclamation of key sections near Egerton Main Campus.

These efforts culminated in officially handing over the rehabilitated sites to the Narok and Nakuru County Governments on 23 February 2024. He is also the Njoro Ward Climate Change Committee chairperson in Nakuru County. Additionally, Prof. M'Erimba has served as the Director of Institutional Advancement, now known as the Directorate of Marketing and Resource Mobilization, where he spearheaded initiatives that strengthened the University's visibility and funding opportunities. He has coordinated the component of stream and river ecology for more than 7 years under the joint master's degree programme, Limnology & Wetlands Ecosystems (LWM), at Egerton University. He has published widely in the field of riverine ecosystems and supervised many postgraduate and undergraduate projects. He has also acted as an external examiner for various universities, including Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.

Meet the Trainers



MR LABAN NJOROGE

Mr. Laban Njoroge is a conservationist and medical entomologist passionate about forensic entomology. He is the immediate former Keeper or Curator of Entomology at the National Museums of Kenya in Nairobi. He has over 15 years of experience working with invertebrates, particularly macro-invertebrates. In conservation, he is keen on insects as bio-indicators in Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). His broad knowledge of insects led him to undertake numerous consultancies in Kenya to conserve wetlands. He is currently undertaking several projects to monitor the rehabilitation and restoration of aquatic habitats in mined areas in Kenya using macro-invertebrates.

Notable grants that he has won and implemented are the CEPF grant, geared towards the conservation of dragonflies of Mt. Kenya and The Aberdare range of mountains to include them in the management plans of the two National Parks, as well as several GBIF grants for digitization of museum collections and development of data products for consumptions by various end users. He is developing a simple guide to the macro-invertebrates of East Africa and other partners. He is creating a macro-invertebrates-based Biotic Index for Kenya known as The Kenya Invertebrates Scoring System (KISS). Many a student has gone through his hands.



Learn more about the Grumeti Fund and RISE by scanning this QR code.