

Abstract Submission and Acceptance

A 250-word abstract on the topics of the conference is required for those intending to make presentations. Both oral and poster presentations in the conference will be accepted. In addition, specific proposals for sessions may also be accepted. Abstracts will be submitted online at <https://gorilla.mak.ac.ug>. Abstracts will be reviewed and accepted on a rolling basis after subjecting them to a peer review process. The key deadlines are;

Important Dates

Deadline Abstract Submission:

15th September 2026

Latest Date of Notification of Abstract Acceptance:

30th September 2026

Contact

Information for the conference can be obtained from the conference website (www.gorilla.mak.ac.ug) or by sending an email to: gorilla.conference@mak.ac.ug:

Secretariat:

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OUR PARTNERS



Conference Organisations

The conference will be organized under the auspices of the International Geographical Union (IGU) and its Commissions, the African Chapter of the International Association of Landscape Ecology (Africa-IALE) and Uganda Geographical Association (UGA).

National Organizing Committee

1. Yazidhi Bamutaze, Makerere University
2. Jerome Ssebaduka, National Environment Management Authority
3. Ronald Semyalo, Makerere University
4. Winnie Nyemera, Uganda Bureau of Statistics
5. Bernard Barasa, Kyambogo University
6. Bob Nakileza, Makerere University
7. Clement Okia, Muni University
8. Ronald Semyalo, Makerere University
9. George Oriangi, Gulu University
10. Frank Mugagga, Makerere University
11. Jane Bemigisha, ESSIPS
12. Justine Namaalwa, Makerere University
13. Norman Ntalo, Uganda Bureau of Statistics
14. Prossy Nakawuka, Makerere University
15. Geoffrey Kagezi, NaCORI
16. Jackie Bonabana, Makerere University
17. Godwin Ayesiga, Department of Meteorological Services, MOWE
18. Paul Mukwaya, Makerere University
19. Patrick Byakagaba, Makerere University
20. Joseph Sekandi, Kabale University

International Scientific Committee

1. Michael Meadows: Nanjing University (China)
2. Innocent Moyo: University of Zululand (South Africa)
3. Charlotte Jjunju Nakakawa: Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Norway)
4. Odwa Atari: Nipissing University (Canada)
5. Monica Dumitrascu, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy (Romania)
6. Oyama Shuichi: Kyoto University (Japan)
7. Mark Cutler: University of Dundee (UK)
8. Wenwu Zhao: Beijing Normal University (China)
9. Florence Wakoko: Columbus State University (US)
10. Joel Nobert: University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)
11. Mihai Voda: Dimitrie Cantemir University (Romania)
12. Moses Cho: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (South Africa)
13. Chris Shisanya: Kenyatta University (Kenya)
14. Walter Musakwa: University of Johannesburg (South Africa)
15. Henry Bulley: City University of New York (US)
16. Ramesh Krishnamurthy: Wildlife Institute of India (India)



4th International Conference On Geographical Science for Resilient Communities, Ecosystems and Livelihoods under Global Environmental Change (GORILLA)

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF

- IGU Commission on African Studies
- IGU Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity
- IGU Commission on Modeling Geographical Systems
- Commission of IGU
- IGU Commission on Geography and Sustainability
- African Chapter of IGU Commission on Geography and Sustainability
- IGU Commission on Land Use and Land Cover Change
- IGU Commission on Local and Regional Development
- African Chapter of the International Association of Landscape Ecology
- Indian Regional Association for Landscape Ecology (IRALE)
- Uganda Geographical Association (UGA)



30th November - 4th December 2026
Commonwealth Resort Munyonyo
KAMPALA UGANDA

Introduction

The signatures of the Anthropocene era continue to be felt globally in diverse and multidimensional ways across the geographical space and time. The world is more than a decade into the Global Development Agenda 2030, which, inter alia, comprises the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The current situation shows that mixed results have been registered in the progress towards a world of prosperity and sustainability as envisioned in Agenda 2030. A pessimistic lens yields a world still trapped by multiple, compounded, and complex challenges, including escalating environmental pressures, increasing disaster losses, biodiversity loss, habitat degradation, urbanization, pollution, and rising climate risks. The interaction of these challenges has culminated in growing uncertainty about current and future situations. An optimistic lens reveals a world with enormous potential and solutions for development and sustainability. The rapid advances in innovation and technology, exemplified by geospatial artificial intelligence, the growing global dialogue on the terrestrial system and the state of the earth, and the increasing enactment of local, regional, and continental measures to heighten global resilience and human wellbeing, offer a glimmer of hope in resolving contemporary challenges.

The 4th International Conference on Geographical Science for Resilient Communities, Ecosystems and Livelihoods under Global Environmental Change (GORILLA) revolves around resolving complex, interwoven sustainable development challenges through the continued generation of new knowledge from research, revolutionary technologies, transformative societal practices, and resolute policies. GORILLA is a transdisciplinary conference that brings together an ecosystem of multi-geographical and multigenerational actors, including scientists, practitioners, societal knowledge holders and policymakers, to address contemporary sustainable development and resilience issues by harnessing geographic science. GORILLA is distinctive as the unique consistent conference in Africa consistently addressing Agenda 2030 and a unique platform for early career capacity building. It will be organized around 12 subthemes.

Objectives:

The Objectives of the 4th GORILLA conference are to;

- Facilitate the exchange of contemporary resilience-building knowledge and innovations across disciplines.
- Enhance dialogue to bridge the science-policy-practice interface to address deficits that are limiting the resolution of pressing resilience challenges and shape policy agendas.
- Enhance capacities and capabilities of early career scientists through mentorship and dedicated training focused on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Increase knowledge and scientific outputs from Sub-Saharan Africa by facilitating special issue publications
- Provide an opportunity for increased networking and beneficial partnerships from attendees with varied backgrounds and professional affiliations to address complex sustainable development challenges.

Mode of Implementing the Conference

The 4th GORILLA Conference will include pre-conference, main conference, and post-conference activities. The pre-conference will focus on competence-building activities, including training, largely targeting young and early-career scholars. The main conference will include keynote addresses, round table and panel discussions, oral presentations, poster presentations, and lightning talks on the defined conference topics. The post-conference will entail an excursion to an exciting geographical landscape in Uganda.

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Conference Sub-themes

The 4th International GORILLA Conference will be organized around the following sub-themes;

- Geographies of Climate Change Resilience: Contradictions and Opportunities
- Environmental Risk and the increasing Polycrisis
- Geospatial Artificial Intelligence for Sustainability of Livelihood
- Emerging Geographic Technologies and Innovations for Resilience
- Green-based transitions for sustainable livelihoods
- Cities of the Future: Reimagining Urbanity in the Age of Innovation and Sustainability
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Nature-based Solutions
- Biodiversity, Biogeography and Ecosystem for Societal Resilience
- Early Warning Systems and Anticipatory Actions for Resilient Communities
- Geographies of water systems resilience
- The Changing geography of agrifood systems
- Climate mobility, displacement and natural resource conflict

Excursion:

A three-day post-conference field excursion will be organized to the Rift Valley in Western Uganda. The excursion will explore interesting features of western Uganda, including the Great East African Rift Valley. We will explore the mind-body and nature.

Costs for Conference Participation:

The conference registration fees are as follows;

Standard fees:	\$300
Students	\$200
Conference Dinner	\$50 (Optional)
Excursion	\$300 (Optional)

The registration fees cover conference materials, meals and refreshments at the venue

