ABOUT FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

With more than 52,000 students, Florida International University (FIU) is one of the country's largest public research universities. FIU has a unique global perspective that serves the research and educational needs of South Florida while collaborating globally to tackle a wide range of critical issues. Uniquely, FIU looks to the tropics for global collaboration and has a long association with Africa. Areas of strategic interest include water, community health and medicine, environment and biodiversity, research partnerships, disaster risk management and criminal justice.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

WATER

West Africa Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Program (USAID WA-WASH) (2011-2015): Working in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger, with an emphasis on water, sanitation, hygiene, food security and climate change under a $20 million USAID award. For more information, visit: wawash.fiu.edu

Tanzania Integrated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Program (USAID iWASH) (2010-2016): Delivering sustainable, market-driven water supply, sanitation and hygiene services to improve health and increase economic resiliency of the poor in targeted rural areas and small towns within an integrated water resource management framework under a USAID $18 million award.


Transboundary Water for Biodiversity and Human Health program Mara River Basin, Kenya and Tanzania (USAID TWB-MRB) (2005-2012): A $6.4 million USAID binational project (Kenya and Tanzania) with the overarching goal to balance the needs of humans and ecosystems for freshwater, and to translate that understanding into practical management goals.

Photo caption: A rope pump installed by USAID WA-WASH for the Amado Yalpoudou household in Oueglela, Burkina Faso. Photo by: FIU PR/Communication Intern.
Center of Excellence for Training and Research in Water, Energy and Environmental Sciences in West and Central Africa is a World Bank ACE selection to establish an African Centre of Excellence for West and Central Africa. Partners are: The University of Liberia T.J.R. Faulkner College of Science & Technology, the Liberian Environmental Protection Agency (L-EPA), the International Institute of Environmental Engineering-2iE, and FIU.

**AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY**

FIU is part of a consortium for the USAID funded project in Ethiopia Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Climate Resilient Chickpeas, where researchers are working to improve the yield, climate resilience, nutritional value and nitrogen-fixing properties of chickpea.

USAID WA-WASH is working with farmers in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger to develop small-scale irrigated vegetable plots and adaption to climate change using climate-smart agriculture.

FIU has strong experience in the management of coastal and freshwater fisheries in the tropics.

FIU has recently completed a study of banana production and the expected changes in production areas as a result of climate change. For more information, visit: upwithclimate.wordpress.com.

**BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES**

FIU is a member of the Savanna Convergence Experiment with the University of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa), University of Cape Town (South Africa), the South African Environmental Observation Network, and the Harry Oppenheimer Okavango Research Center (Botswana), investigating the ecology of North American and African savannas. For more information, visit: fiu.edu/~dburkepi/home.html

FIU has strong experience in tropical conservation including species recovery and conservation planning, forestry management, and the sustainable use of wildlife and plant resources. FIU is part of an East African regional collaboration assessing extinction risk for the endemic plants of the region.

FIU is a global leader in the management of coastal and wetland ecosystems including fisheries, blue carbon resources and the management and restoration of mangrove, coral and sea grass resources. For more information, visit: seagrass.fiu.edu and wetland.fiu.edu.

**EDUCATION AND CULTURE**

The FIU African and African Diaspora Studies (AADS) Program is comprised of multidisciplinary and globally-oriented scholars engaged in countries throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. AADS works on a diversity of issues, including a programs on pro-poor tourism, European colonialisms in West and Central Africa, Islamic political thought in Africa, Central African political systems, feminist political geography of Eastern Africa, and the recent formation of the Sudanese diaspora in the U.S. For more information, visit: africana.fiu.edu

The Washington Fellowship is the flagship program of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). FIU has been selected as a host for this program. President Obama’s Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders will empower young African leaders through academic coursework, leadership training, mentoring, networking, professional opportunities, and support for activities in their communities. Beginning in June 2014, 25 competitively selected young Africans will participate in a six-week academic institute on public management at FIU.

USAID WA-WASH is developing the capacity of various stakeholders, including interns from a number of African countries, decision-makers, university professors, professional school trainers and government agencies staff.

FIU has close working collaborative relationships with a number of Sub-Saharan universities in Nigeria, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, Niger, Ghana, Gambia, Senegal, South Africa and Senegal.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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