

HEALTHY FUTURES



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Health, environmental change and adaptive capacity; mapping, examining & anticipating future risks of water-related vector-borne diseases in eastern Africa

Collaborative Project
Seventh Framework Programme
Capacities

Deliverable D 6.17

First Generic skills and networking shop

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Contact person	Professor David Taylor		
Contributors	Dr. Laragh Larsen, Dr. Gayle McGlynn & Professor David Taylor		
Short summary	First Early Stage Researcher (ESR) Generic skills and networking workshop. Held in Arusha, Tanzania, May 11 & 12 2012, the workshop attracted eight ESRs funded through HEALTHY FUTURES and several researcher trainers (also linked directly to HEALTHY FUTURES). The programme comprised two days of activities and presentations, aimed at developing the research, presentation and networking skills of participants, and at cementing links between ESRs and the HEALTHY FUTURES project.		
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Summary

First HEALTHY FUTURES Early Stage Researcher Generic Skills and networking Workshop, Arusha, Tanzania, May 2012

The first Early Stage Researcher Generic Skills and Networking Workshop, held in the MS-TCDC conference centre in Arusha, Tanzania, on May 11th and 12th 2012 and aimed at postgraduate research students and research assistants funded through HEALTHY FUTURES, was attended by eight researchers from seven of the HEALTHY FUTURES partner institutions, with a further four of the partner institutions also represented. The workshop was organised by Gayle McGlynn (TCD) and Laragh Larsen (TCD) and provided an opportunity for participants to think about their research in the wider context of the HEALTHY FUTURES project, while also gaining valuable training in several aspects of research planning and dissemination.

Several members of the HEALTHY FUTURES team kindly contributed to the workshop. The first day consisted of an introduction to the workshop and an overview of the HEALTHY FUTURES project in context by David Taylor. This was followed by a participatory session and discussion to establish the main keywords and thematic areas of HEALTHY FUTURES, and to consider how everyone's individual research keywords fit in with the resulting framework. Participants were also set a small group-based exercise to take a photograph in the MS-TCDC surroundings that represented several of the HEALTHY FUTURES themes identified in the discussion. The afternoon sessions consisted of two presentations from Riccardo Biondi (ICTP) and Colin Jones (SMHI), both senior researchers associated with HEALTHY FUTURES, giving an overview of methods and applications of remote sensing and climate modelling, respectively. The day finished up with Paul Lowen (AQUATT) delivering a talk about presentation skills.



Participants at the first Early Stage Researcher Generic Skills and networking workshop, Arusha, Tanzania, May 2012

The morning of the second day provided an opportunity for everyone to put their new presentation tips into practice. Eight excellent presentations were delivered by the early stage researchers participating in the workshop, providing a great opportunity to see everyone’s research plans and how their plans link to the wider HEALTHY FUTURES project. The lively and constructive discussions after each talk raised several important issues related to effective management and planning of research projects – a subject that we returned to later that day. The afternoon session was delivered by David Taylor (TCD), who spoke about research planning, design and dissemination. As usual, a lively discussion ensued, particularly related to the issue of writing publications, and many useful tips and suggestions were mentioned, based on the experience of attendees. David also encouraged everyone in attendance to form a writer’s group, whereby people can obtain – and provide – informal feedback on written drafts of papers from other members of the HEALTHY FUTURES team. Another aspect of this session involved an exercise for everyone to explain in a single sentence what their research is planning to achieve. The day concluded with short group-based presentations of the HEALTHY FUTURES-themed photographs from the previous day’s exercise.

Overall, the workshop provided a useful forum for early stage researchers involved in HEALTHY FUTURES to gain an insight into how their research fits in with the broader themes of the project, and to exchange ideas on how those broader themes are linked together. Furthermore, the training in various aspects of the research process, delivered by several experienced researchers involved in HEALTHY FUTURES, was a valuable opportunity for all participants.



*First ESR Generic Skills & networking workshop, Arusha, Tanzania:
Discussing the main key words that best describe the HEALTHY FUTURES project*

Table 1: list of participants in the first ESR Generic skills and networking workshop

Name of participant	Institution
David Taylor	TCD
Gayle McGlynn	TCD
Laragh Larsen	TCD
Paul Lowen	AQUATT
Riccardo Biondi	ICTP
Colin Jones	SMHI
Michael Hagenlocher	PLUS
Frederick Makanga Obonyo	UoN
John Gachohi	ILRI
Jusper Kiplimo	ILRI
Jean Pierre Bizimana	NUR
Aline Uwimana	TRAC-Plus
Lisa Coop	UCT
Nicky McCreesh	UDUR
Didacus B. Namanya	CH
Agaba E. Friday	CH