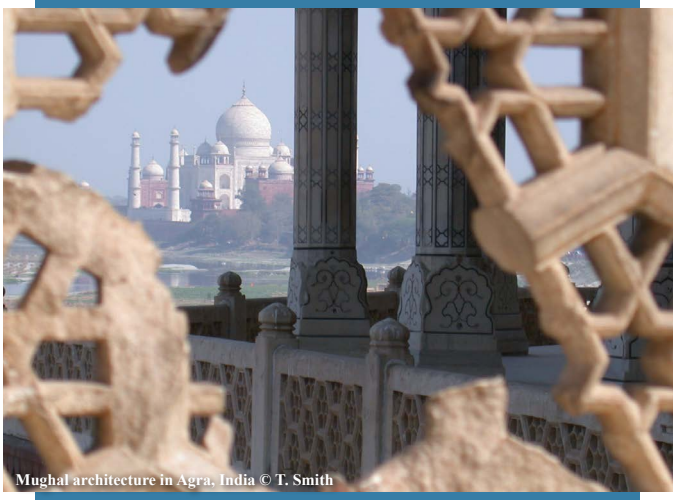
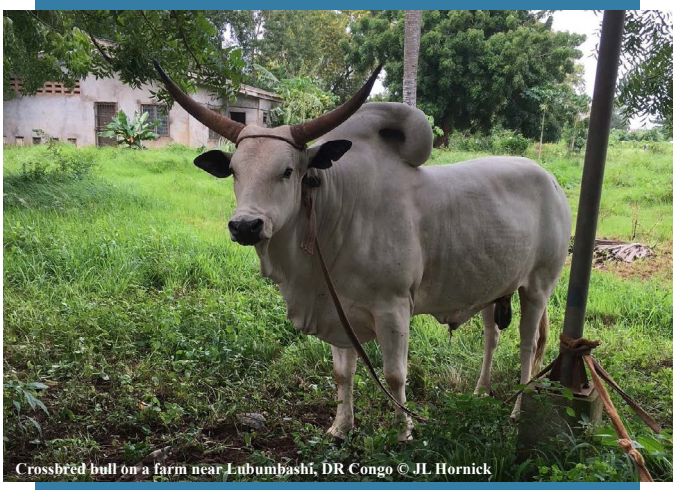
Seventh Edition

YROD

Young Researchers Overseas Day


Mughal architecture in Agra, India © T. Smith


Crossbred bull on a farm near Lubumbashi, DR Congo © JL Hornick


Prospection in Anhui, China © E. De Bast

1 December 2026

Programme

Venue:
Palais des Académies - Paleis der Academiën
Rue Ducale - 1 - Hertogsstraat, 1000 Brussels

Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences

PROGRAMME

08.30 - 09.00 Registration & Poster installation

09.00 - 09.10 Welcome Address

09.10 - 09.35 **KEYNOTE LECTURE**

Jean VAN WETTER, General Director, Enabel (Belgium)
Reinventing Global Cooperation in a Rapidly Evolving World

09.35 - 09.45 Questions & Answers

09.45 - 10.30 **COMMUNICATIONS BY YOUNG RESEARCHERS – SESSION I**

Chair: Virginie TILOT, UCLouvain & RAOS Member, Belgium

09.45 **Digitising Dengue Surveillance Through Co-Creation in Cuba**
Rita VERSTRAETEN, Ghent University (Belgium)

10.00 **Synergy of eDNA and Camera Traps for Detecting Elusive Mangrove Mammals**
Elizabeth Melanie NEUHAUS, ULB & VUB (Belgium) & University Malaysia Terengganu (Malaysia).

10.15 **Using Earth Observation Anomalies to Estimate Agricultural Drought Impacts on Rice Yields**
Nick GUTKIN, VITO & KULeuven (Belgium)

10.30 - 10.40 Questions & Answers

10.40 - 11.25 Coffee break & Poster session

10.50 **Urban Trade of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) in Kolwezi, DR Congo: Diversity, Livelihoods, and Sustainability Changes**
John KIKUNI TCHOWA, University of Kolwezi (Democratic Republic of the Congo) & University of Liège (Belgium)

10.55 **Mapping and Quantifying Mine Waste Dump Expansion in the Katangan Copperbelt (Democratic Republic of the Congo): Implications for Ecological Remediation**
Yannick USENI SIKUZANI, University of Lubumbashi (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

11.00 **Accessible for Whom? Conflicts of Universal Accessibility in Heritage Public Space**
Ana ROCIO MENA BLANCO, VUB (Belgium)

11.05 **Melt Inclusions in Tourmaline: Evidence for Compositionally Evolving Boundary Layers in an Undercooled Pegmatite Melt**
Lin-Yan KANG, KU Leuven (Belgium) & Central South University (China)

11.10 **Mapping Functional Insurance of Mangrove Social-Ecological Functions and Risks of Ecosystem Service Loss**
Sofía M. ALFONSO-VELASCO, ULB (Belgium) & VUB (Belgium)

11.15 **Deep Learning-Based Landslide Detection and Controls on Their Spatial Distribution**
Rik VAN AKEN, KU Leuven (Belgium)

11.25 - 12.55 **COMMUNICATIONS BY YOUNG RESEARCHERS – SESSION II**

Chair: Pierre MEERTS, Meise Botanic Garden & Université Libre de Bruxelles & RAOS Member (Belgium)

11.25 **Intraplate Deformation of Gondwana Terranes and Implications for the Wilson Cycle**
Ana Carolina FONSECA, Ghent University (Belgium)

11.40 **One Postcode, Two Vector Systems: Assessing the Spatial Overlap of Malaria and Dengue Risk in Urban Kenya**
Noel K. Joseph, UNamur (Belgium)

11.55 **Characterization of Bioactive Edible Films Enriched with Three Aromatic and Medicinal Plants and their Mixture for Lamb Meat Preservation**
Yosra Bannour, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, ULG (Belgium)

12.10 **Mapping and Susceptibility Assessment of Urban Gullies in Brazil**
Fernanda Zago, KU Leuven (Belgium)

12.25 **Terrorist Attacks in Northwestern Benin: Displacement Trajectories, Livelihoods and Food Security of Internally Displaced Persons**
Yelian Migan, UNamur (Belgium)

12.40 **Beyond Shallow Sediments: Deep Carbon Stocks in Natural and Restored Mangroves of the Sine-Saloum Delta, Senegal**
Khady Diallo, ULB (Belgium) & University Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar (Senegal)

12.55 - 13.05 Questions & Answers

13.05 - 13.15 Group picture

13.15 - 14.00 Lunch & Poster session

13.25 **After Dark: Lighting, Dollarization, and the Production of Otherness**
Ana Rocio Mena Blanco, VUB (Belgium)

13.30 **Reconstructing 150 Years of Mangrove Encroachment Into Salt Marshes Driven by Hydrological Modification in a Florida Estuary**
Adin Shapiro, ULB (Belgium) & VUB (Belgium)

13.35 **Africa–China Intimate Encounters: Embodied Patriarchal Anti-Black Racism in Sino-Congolese Marriages**
Cai Chen, ULB (Belgium)

13.40 **Under-Sampled KBAs, Over-Sampled Roadsides: Integrating Historical and Contemporary Records of Malagasy Bees**
Damselle Quesada, ULB (Belgium)

13.45 **Watching Peatlands Change from Space: Two Decades of Vegetation Dynamics Across Northern Latitudes**
Iuliia Burdun, KU leuven (Belgium)

13.50 **Negotiating Belonging: International Chinese Students in Flemish Higher Education**
Lupin Lyu, Ghent University (Belgium)

14.00 - 15.30 **Communications by young researchers – Session III**
Chair: Georges Van Goethem, European Commission & RAOS Member, Belgium
Chair: Christine Cocquyt, Meise Botanic Garden & RAOS Member, Belgium

14.00 **Development of Sustainable Circular Technology for Recycling Plaster of Paris Waste into Value-Added Products**
Chandrakant R. Holkar, Institute of Chemical Technology (India)

14.15 **Perceptions of Fauna-Related Health Risks in Mangrove Social-Ecosystems of Rural Terengganu, Malaysia**
Mariana Gomez Hermosillo Lanzagorta, ULB (Belgium) & VUB (Belgium) & University Malaysia Terengganu – UMT (Malaysia)

14.30 **Defining the Onset of the 'Anthropocene' in Eastern Tropical Africa: A Question of Data Quality Rather than Quantity**
Miel Somers, Ghent University (Belgium)

14.45 **Integrating Seasonal Greenness Dynamics for Improved Forest Type Discrimination in Lualaba Province (DRC): Implications for Sustainable Forest Management**
Médard Mpanda Mukenza, University of Lubumbashi (Democratic Republic of Congo) & ULiège (Belgium)

15.00 **From PARDI to ComMod: Co-Constructing Participatory Poultry Surveillance**
Erudit Ndongo Katengo, University of Lubumbashi (Democratic Republic of Congo) & University of Liège (Belgium)

15.15 **Polyphonie romanesque et mémoire traumatique de la décennie noire Algérienne dans Houris de Kamel Daoud et Nos Silences de Wahiba Khiari**
Hassan Shorouq, ULB (Belgium)

15.30 - 15.40 Questions & Answers

15.40 - 16.25 Coffee break & Poster session & Votes

Mundus Tropicalis and the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master in Tropical Biodiversity and Ecosystems TROPIMUNDO
Satyanarayana Behara, University Malaysia Terengganu (Malaysia) & ULB (Belgium) & VUB (Belgium)

Optimizing Terrestrial Vertebrate Detection in Mangrove Forests: Ecological and Methodological Drivers of Diversity Estimates
Charese Kelly, ULB (Belgium)

AquaForest: A Nature-Based Approach for Mangrove Restoration, Climate Adaptation, and Carbon Mitigation in the Guayas Delta
Noa Ligot, Jan de Nul Group (Belgium)

Lianes d'Apocynaceae à fruits comestibles en RDC : Diversité, usages et potentiel de domestication
Juvenal Bogoga Kopa, University of Kisangani & Laboratoire d'Eco-agriculture et Agroforesterie tropicale & Bureau d'Etudes et d'Appui au développement (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

Nutrient Acquisition Strategies in Coffee Agroforestry Systems
Augustin Peeters, Meise Botanic Garden (Belgium)

Unravelling the Geological Controls of the Giant, High-Grade Kakula Copper Deposit (DR Congo)
Franck Twite, KU Leuven (Belgium) & Kamoa Copper SA (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

16.25 - 16.45 **General discussion and closing remarks**
Philippe Muchez, KULeuven & RAOS Member (Belgium)

Best Presentation and Best Poster Award
Thierry Smith, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences & Université de Namur & RAOS Member, Belgium

Organizing and Scientific Committee:

Christine Cocquyt, Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences & Meise Botanic Garden, Belgium

Philippe De Maeyer, Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences & University of Gent, Belgium

Thierry De Putter, Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences & Belspo, Belgium

Bart Dessein, Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences & University of Gent, Belgium

Jean-Luc Hornick, Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences & University of Liège, Belgium

Pierre Meerts, Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences & Université Libre de Bruxelles & Meise Botanic Garden, Belgium

Philippe Muchez, Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences & KULeuven, Belgium

Thierry Smith, Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences & Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Belgium

Virginie Tilot, Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences & Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium

Georges Van Goethem, Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences & European Commission & RAOS Member, Belgium

Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences

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