

## UNEP GEMS/Water Capacity Development Centre Newsletter

January 2023 – July 2023

July 2023

*Dear friends and partners of the UNEP GEMS/Water CDC,*

*We are pleased to bring you the latest newsletter of the UNEP GEMS/Water CDC. As you can see, we have made a few changes to the layout of this edition to hopefully make it easier for you to navigate (and to see all the exciting updates in the world of water quality capacity development!) – we hope you like it.*

*Firstly, a quick update on our current students: this March saw the graduation ceremony of our third cohort of MSc students – congrats again everyone! Our 2<sup>nd</sup> year PgDip students are now entering their final semester – keep up the good work everyone, you are nearly there.*

*Also in this edition, we also have some important progress to share around the Capacity Development Consortium of the World Water Quality Alliance, we also introduce new courses targeted at water quality data handling and assessment, new handbooks on different aspects of water quality monitoring, and we profile some of our current and past students, giving you a glimpse of the impact professional training in water quality monitoring and assessment can have on your career. We also want to highlight that applications for the next intake for our Professional Development Courses are currently open (closing 31 of July – so hurry!).*

*Last, but by no mean least, we want to introduce you to some new staff at the UNEP GEMS/Water CDC – welcome Karen, David and Tom!*

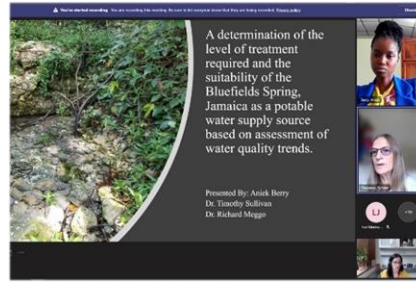
*As always, we hope you are all keeping very well.*

*Tim (Director, UNEP GEMS/Water CDC)  
on behalf of all the Team @ the UNEP GEMS/Water Capacity Development Centre.*



### New staff at the CDC

We are very excited to introduce our new members of staff who have recently joined the Capacity Development Centre team: Dr Karen Taylor, Dr David Fouser, and Thomas Earnshaw. Welcome! In the coming months they will aid in the development of educational material and public outreach at the CDC. For more information on staff see our [People](#).



### MSc Graduation

We are very proud to announce that 14 students have graduated with an MSc in Freshwater Quality Monitoring & Assessment this Spring! Our students have worked hard to achieve their results, and we wish them all a huge congratulations and the best of luck for the future! Interested in pursuing a qualification in Water Quality Monitoring? See our [Online Courses here](#).



### Student Profile: María José Arias Builes

María is from Medellín, Colombia. Her work has taken her deep into the Amazon, where she has done environmental characterization studies, worked closely with indigenous groups, and participated in water quality recovery efforts. And now, she is a UCC student, taking a Continuous Professional Development course via the GEMS/Water CDC. [Read more...](#)



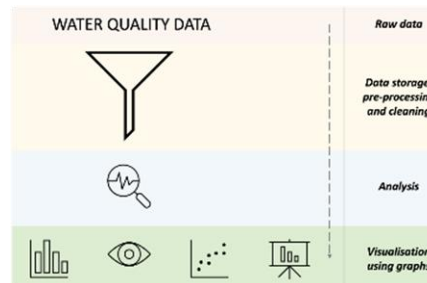
### CPD Course Enrolment is Open for September 2023

We are currently open for new applications on our 12-week Continuous Professional Development courses, beginning in September! Reduced fees and bursaries are available. Closing date for applications is the 31<sup>st</sup> July. [Follow this link to read more and apply.](#)



### From the Centre to the Consortium

The GEMS/Water CDC is featured in this month's edition of Yemaya, the World Water Quality Alliance's monthly newsletter. Our piece, 'Focus on Capacity Development: at the Heart of Solutions to Worldwide Water Quality', explores the key role that capacity development plays in water quality monitoring and how the CDC and the WWQA's Capacity Development Consortium are approaching water quality monitoring training. [Read more...](#)



### Data Feature on Dr Karen Taylor

Over the past year, the CDC conducted a scoping report to better understand the challenges of data handling and assessment that water quality experts face globally. In order to address these challenges, Dr Karen Taylor is bringing her expertise to the GEMS/Water CDC. She is involved in the development of a new set of materials geared toward remedying the problems identified in the scoping report. [Read more...](#)



### Student Profile: Onesmus Kativhu

Onesmus is from Harare, Zimbabwe, where he works as a technician in the teaching laboratory at the University of Zimbabwe. At the same time, he is also undertaking a Continuous Professional Development course online via the GEMS/Water CDC. Due to issues with pollution in surface waters, Onesmus and colleagues are investigating accessing groundwaters for a clean water supply. [Read more...](#)



### Guidebook Announcement: Quality Assurance for Freshwater Quality Monitoring

A new Technical Guidance Document has been developed and published by GEMS/Water CDC. This guidebook aims to introduce key concepts and approaches used in Quality Assurance and Quality Control, a critical step in data management to ensure that the interpretation of monitoring data accurately reflects the true environmental quality condition. [See the guidebook here.](#)



**GEMS/Water Alumni Update:  
Ntiea Letsapo from Lesotho.**

Since earning his MSc at UCC in 2021 with GEMS/Water CDC, Ntiea Letsapo has been promoted to Senior Engineer Water Resources within the Water Rights Division at the Lesotho Department of Water Affairs. With his knowledge and expertise, he has already been involved in several key water quality projects managing the resources of the Orange-Senqu River basin. [Read more...](#)



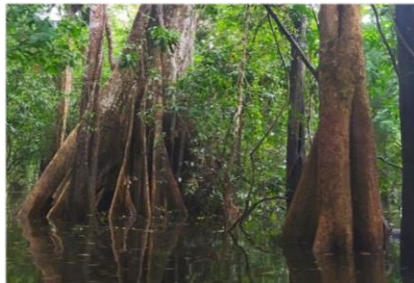
**GEMS/Water Alumni Update:  
Nthathi Toae from Lesotho.**

Nthathi Toae is a hydrobiologist working for Lesotho's Department of Water Affairs, and a UCC alum, having earned an MSc in Freshwater Quality Monitoring. She recently used her skills to investigate fish kill in the Maqalika Reservoir, using populations of macroinvertebrates that live along the reservoir's edges to unravel the causes of fish mortality. [Read more...](#)



**GEMS/Water Alumni Update:  
Caitlan O' Keeffe from Atlanta, USA.**

We are delighted to feature the work of Caitlan, an MSc Freshwater Quality Monitoring graduate (class of 2023!). Caitlan is currently with Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources as a Water Quality Manager, she is involved in assessing the impacts of stormwater on surface water quality. [Read more...](#)



**Latin America Translation Meeting**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the CDC hosted an online meeting with professionals from a number of universities and institutions coming from over 20 countries. This meeting was to identify those interested in the adaption and delivery of [Continuous Professional Development courses](#) in Spanish and Portuguese within Latin American countries on the monitoring and assessment of freshwater quality.



**EV6004 Field Course is coming up!**

MSc and Postgraduate Diploma students enrolled in our EV6004 Water Quality Monitoring in the Field module will be undertaking a residential/virtual fieldwork training workshop. This will give students the opportunity to apply their training and learn about the practical aspects of water monitoring! If this interests you, follow this [link to Online Courses](#) to see more and apply.

**Our website address is:**  
<https://www.ucc.ie/en/gemscdc/>

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