

[View this email in your browser](#)

ZEF's year-end newsletter 2022



We wish you all a joyful holiday season and a good start to 2023. We'll take you along on a review of 2022 ZEF-highlights in terms of research, impact, public interest, engagement, and outreach. We wish you a good read!

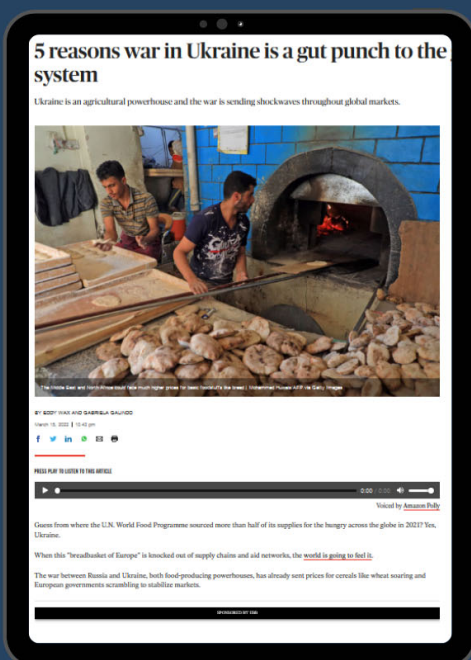
In this newsletter:

1 ZEF in brief; 2 War on Ukraine; 3 Research & Publications; 4 Events; 5 Policy Dialogue; 6 Bonn International Graduate School for Development Research (BIGS-DR); and 7 Did you know that?

1 ZEF in brief:

- ZEF is an interdisciplinary international research, higher-education and capacity development institute of the [University of Bonn](#), led by [three directors](#) and guided by an [international advisory board](#).
- In addition, we had 39 senior researchers | 103 junior researchers (doctoral students) | 33 associated researchers | 36 (external) senior fellows and 4 visiting researchers working with ZEF in 2022.

- ZEF's interdisciplinary research themes reflect ZEF's strategy "Serving in new local and global contexts" (2021-2030) and include: Agriculture, Land use, Climate Change; Water resources (management); Biodiversity; Food and Nutrition; Health; Gender; Migration, Mobility, Urbanization; Governance and Conflict; Markets and Services; Innovation and Science Policy.
- ZEF senior researchers run around 30 research and capacity development projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America.



5 REASONS WAR IN UKRAINE IS A GUT PUNCH TO THE GLOBAL FOOD SYSTEM

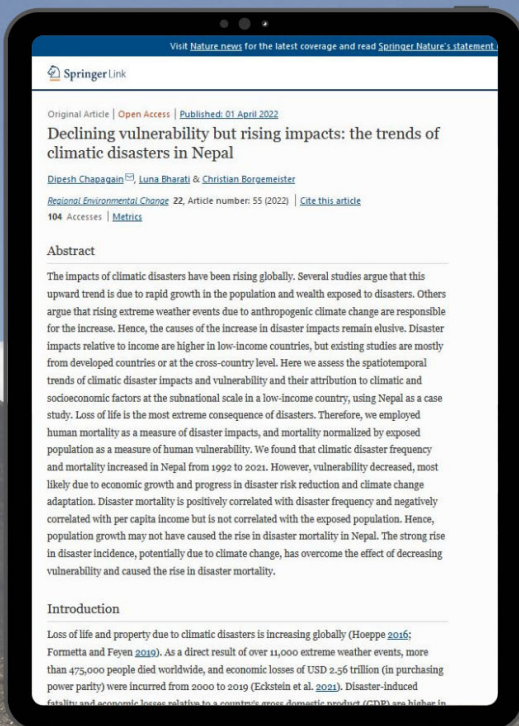


2 War on Ukraine. Russia's war on Ukraine starting on February 24, 2022, has changed and shocked the world and its rule-based order. ZEF's contribution to the public discourse focused on the war's economic, social and ecological impacts on the Global South.

Especially ZEF-Director Matin Qaim has been in the midst of public outreach and political debate. Qaim and other ZEF researchers have had around 100 media mentions (interviews, quotes, articles, talk show performances, etc.) in 2022. He was also interviewed for several podcasts, e.g. for Bonn University's "Hypothesis".

Matin Qaim was invited as an expert on the topic "*Helping Ukraine now and in the future, securing food supplies in the world and making European and German agriculture crisis-proof*". by the Parliamentary Committee on Food and Agriculture at their public hearing on Monday, May 16, 2022. You can watch this contribution to the science-policy interface online (Qaim's main statement is from 00:52:29 - 01:06:15).

ZEF and Right Livelihood College (RLC) junior researcher Ahmed Abdallah wrote a blog about the impact of the war on Ukraine on Egypt's food security (March, 2022).



Research Article

DECLINING VULNERABILITY BUT RISING IMPACTS: THE TRENDS OF CLIMATIC DISASTERS IN NEPAL



Click on the photo for more information about the journal article "Declining vulnerability but rising impacts: The trends of climatic disasters in Nepal".

3 Research & publications. In 2022, ZEF-researchers published around 90 peer-reviewed articles, 8 book chapters and 4 books. Besides, 7 ZEF Working Papers, 8 ZEF Discussion Papers, and 3 ZEF Policy Briefs were published. In addition, large projects such as the Program of Accompanying Research for Agricultural Innovation (PARI) published their own, target-audience-specific research (see PARI publications and policy briefs).

A paper by Martin C. Parlasca and Martin Qaim on **Meat consumption and sustainability** (2022, Annual Review of Resource Economics) received a lot of public attention, especially in the context of the global energy crisis and the search for more sustainable consumption patterns in the Global North. The University of Bonn launched a press release featuring the article in [German](#) and [English](#) (April 25, 2022) and it was posted on ZEF's Twitter account [here](#).

Nine ZEF senior researchers paid a tribute to our interdisciplinary mission by publishing an **interdisciplinary paper** on *Integrating scientific and local knowledge to address environmental conflicts: the role of academia* (2022, Springer) by Dennis Avilés Irahola, Alejandro Mora-Motta, Aline Barbosa Pereira, Luna Bharati, Lisa Biber-Freudenberger, Christian Petersheim, Melissa R. Quispe-Zuniga, Christine B. Schmitt & Eva Youkhana.

ZEF policy brief no. 38 by ZEF senior-researcher [Lukas Kornher](#) and ZEF-distinguished professor Joachim von Braun on **Higher and more volatile food prices - complex implications of the Ukraine War and the Covid-19 Pandemic** generated substantial media and policy response.

ZEF senior researcher Navneet Kumar has co-edited a two-volume **Handbook of Himalayan Ecosystems and Sustainability**. Volume 1: Spatio-Temporal Monitoring of Forests and Climate and Volume 2: Spatio-Temporal Monitoring of Water Resources and Climate.



In the photo: Louise Fresco during her acceptance speech “Where Are We in Understanding World Hunger” after receiving the Justus-von-Liebig Prize for World Nutrition 2022 on November 28, 2022.

4 Events. ZEF organized around 60 ZEF public lectures and ZEF(-related) events. We’d like to highlight this year’s Justus-von-Liebig Prize for World Nutrition, which was awarded by the fiat panis Foundation to the Dutch scientist and writer Louise O. Fresco for “her contributions to improving world nutrition” during an award ceremony at ZEF on November 28, 2022. Read more about the event and Louise Fresco on our Website. You can watch the video recording [here](#).

The Colombian Truth Commission presented and discussed their results and recommendations with around 70 in-person participants on September 19, 2022, during the vivid and bilingual event “*There is a future if there is truth*”. Among the co-organizers was the ZEF-led German-Colombian bilateral [Doctoral Studies Support Program](#). You can watch the video recording [here](#).

Biodiversity and people in the Anthropocene was the title of a thought-provoking lecture by [Katrin Böhning-Gaese](#), director of the [Senckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre](#), Goethe University Frankfurt, and German Environmental Awardee 2021. The lecture was co-organized with Bonn University’s Transdisciplinary Research Area “[Sustainable Futures](#)” (TRA6)) on July 5, 2022.

An engaging hybrid panel debate on **Carbon Farming & Carbon Markets: Perspectives for**

Temperate and Tropical Climates with representatives from science, policy, and NGOs from Brazil and Germany on June 30, 2022.

A workshop at ZEF discussed and evaluated work on **Participatory Monitoring of biodiversity loss in Colombia** on June 21, 2022. More info about the workshop, and its organizers (DSSP and ColPaMon) on our website [here](#).

A hybrid event on **10 Years of Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index: A Conversation with Agnes Quisumbing (IFPRI)** on June 15, 2022 (organized by ZEF's Gender Group). Watch the video [here](#).



Photo: ZEF-researchers Juliet Wanjiku (second left) and Sara Velandar (right) on a panel at UNCCD's COP15 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, May 2022.

5 Policy Dialogue. ZEF senior and junior researchers engaged and exchanged with representatives from science and policy, civil society, NGOs, farmers' organizations, UN-, regional and international organizations, academic umbrella organizations, etc.

Four ZEF junior researchers attended the UNFCCC's **COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh**, Egypt (November 6–20, 2022). Please check ZEF's social media channels Facebook and Twitter to see what they have been up to there. [Niklas Wagner](#) and [Sara Velandar](#) have been joining actions such as [#NoToNetZero](#) [#PayUp4LossAndDamage](#) and [#FloodTheCOP27](#). ZEF and Right Livelihood student [Irene Ojuok](#) was talking to several international media outlets, and [Nady Abdelsabour Mohamed](#) was at a Side Event of the UNFCCC Regional Climate week on Transformative climate adaptation, land use, and human health in Africa.

A hybrid event on **Strengthening Resilience to Shocks and Stresses in African Food Systems**, which was hosted by PARI/ZEF, the Malabo Montpellier Panel and AKADEMIYA2063 on October 17, looked into possible solutions to reducing African

countries' vulnerabilities to external stresses and shocks through targeted interventions within the food system. You can watch the video recording on ZEF's youtube channel [here](#).

At the **UNCCD's COP15 on Land. Life. Legacy: From scarcity to prosperity** held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire (May 9-20, 2022), ZEF was represented by researchers from the [AFAS](#), [CABES](#) and [LANUSYNCON](#) projects. ZEF junior researcher Sara Velandar wrote an interesting blog on [The Role of Land in Sustainable Development: Observing Science Policy at the UN Land Conference](#) and how attending this COP added value to her doctoral research.

ZEF-Distinguished Professor Joachim von Braun was assigned leadership of the **Scientific Group of the United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021 UNFSS2021**. ZEF's activities were kindly supported by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The Scientific Group worked closely together with other structures and informed the Food Systems Summit with a comprehensive science reader: https://sc-fss2021.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/ScGroup_Reader_UNFSS2021.pdf, which will be published by Springer (open access) shortly.



Photo: ZEF's BIGS-DR batch 2022. [Click on the photo for more info.](#)

6 Bonn International Graduate School for Development Research (BIGS-DR). BIGS-DR is a structured doctoral program at ZEF/University of Bonn. Our 103 doctoral students come from 47 countries and five continents/regions: Africa (33%), Latin America (25%), Asia (22%), Europe (11%), and Central Asia (9%). ZEF-students are conducting research in more than 40 countries with funds from over 20 donors.

Nineteen ZEF doctoral students graduated in 2022, among them: Shaibu Mellon Bedi (May 9, 2022) on the topic of *Disseminating sustainable intensification practices*:

Empirical evidence from Ghana. Shaibu has a post-doc position at University of Göteborg, Sweden now. Lenny Martini (August 23, 2022) defended her thesis on *Knowledge Communities and the Social and Discursive Construction of Bandung as a Creative City* and is working with UNESCO-UNEVOC now. Imran Sajid (November 2, 2022) defended his thesis on *Irrigation efficiency and productivity in Punjab, Pakistan*.

The **One Health and Urban Transformation Graduate School** organized its annual One-Health- Day Symposium on November 3, 2022. Learn more about One-Health research at ZEF in the short [video clips of six doctoral researchers](#) about their research in India and Ghana. In 2022, One-Health doctoral students Joshua Ntajal (post-doc at Bonn University now), Yasobant Sandul (working with Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar now), Dennis Schmiege (at Institut für Urban Public Health in Essen, Germany, now), Philipp Swoboda (with Universalmuseum Wien, Austria now), and Mervielle Koissi Savi (Research Fellow at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, USA, now) defended their theses successfully.

ZEF strengthened and expanded its **longstanding partnership with the University of Tokyo**, especially with the International Program in Agricultural Development Studies (IPADS) of the Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, by adding the Graduate School of Frontier Science as a cooperation partner. In this context, Professor Hiroe Ishihara, a professor at the [Graduate School for Frontier Sciences](#), paid a work visit to ZEF, during which she taught students, gave a lecture on *“Can certification schemes alone achieve sea-food security?”* (July 4, 2022) and an [interview](#) about her research.

This year’s **Friends of ZEF Prize** for the best doctoral thesis was awarded to two former ZEF junior researchers: **Powell Mponela**, a forestry expert from Malawi, who received the Prize for his doctoral thesis on: *“Options for sustainable intensification in maize mixed farming systems: Explorative ex-ante assessment using multi-agent system simulation”*, and **Marwa Abdelhamid Shumo**, an entomologist from Oman, who received the Prize for her doctoral thesis on the *Use of Black Soldier Fly (*Hermetia illucens*) in bioconversion and feed production*.

February 10, 2022. ZEF junior researcher **Hina Amber** from Pakistan has been selected for a grant by the [International Growth Centre](#) of the London School of Economics and Political Science.



7 Did you know that?

- ZEF's doctoral program, incepted in 1999, has a world-wide network of around **470 alumni** by now.
- One of them, **Ildephonse Musafiri**, was sworn in as Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources of Rwanda in August 2022. Read more [here](#).
- ZEF senior researcher **Fazlullah Akhtar** gave the most media interviews of all senior researchers at ZEF, many focusing on the situation in his home country Afghanistan and related to his research on water management. Check our social media channels!
- ZEF senior researcher **Amy Faye** has been selected for the joint Mentoring Program of African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) and the International Committee of Women in Agricultural Economics (ICWAE, a committee in the International Association of Agricultural Economists IAAE).
- Former ZEF junior researcher **Pallavi Rajkhowa** won a prize awarded by the German Development Bank and the German Economics Association for her dissertation on development effects of digital technologies in India that she completed and defended in early 2022.
- ZEF researchers joined the **Scientist Rebellion** 12-hour lecture in front of the COP-27 Climate Conference in Bonn on Saturday, June 11, 2022 to protest against inaction on climate change!
- ZEF has a **Gender Group**, advancing a gender-sensitive agenda in development research at ZEF and beyond.
- ZEF-director Matin Qaim was recognized as [Highly Cited Researcher](#) by Clarivate (Web of Science) for the second year in a row.

- ZEF is a Campus of **Right Livelihood**. What that means for our partner institutes in the Global South tells yearslong partner **David Amudavi**, Director of Biovision Africa Trust and Coordinator of the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative for Africa in an interview [here](#).



zef

Center for
Development Research
University of Bonn

All Rights reserved by the Center for Development (ZEF), University of Bonn, Germany.

Grow your business with  **mailchimp**