



< Alumni get-together

## ALUMNI CONFERENCE »SUSTAINABLE LAND USE«

The Environmental and Resource Management (ERM) course celebrated its 20th anniversary

Alumni, students and past and present lecturers met in summer 2018 for the alumni conference »Sustainable land use«. With more than 150 participants, the event, which marked the 20th anniversary of the Environmental and Resource Management course, was a real success. The organisational team had prepared an interesting meeting that started with the subject-related part and ended in festive celebrations with many diverse cultural impressions.

An introductory workshop, which brought together all the alumni who came mainly from African countries as well as Madagascar, China, Thai-

land and Brazil, was followed by the specialist part of the conference. For this, high-profile speakers and scientists from South Africa, USA, Belgium and Germany came to discuss sustainable ecological land use issues with the alumni. The presentations by the alumni on their current areas of work in aquatic and terrestrial systems, maintaining biological diversity as well as climate protection and adaptation led to further discussions on a wide range of subjects. With viewpoints, progressive approaches as well as personal assessments, the directors of the chairs involved: Ecology, Prof. Klaus Birkhofer, Environmental Economics, Prof. Frank Wätzold as well as Soil Protection and Recultivation represented by apl. Prof. Dirk Freese added to the podium discussion which followed and was moderated by Prof. Eike Albrecht, Chair of Civil and Public Law.

Excursions on agroforestry and recultivation took the participants to the forest and the Spreeauen. Current ERM students had arranged a colourful cultural programme for the 20th anniversary celebrations with musical contributions from Iran, India, Ghana and Australia. Reviews of the history of this course, which remains very successful, also led to a few moving moments. Former professors Albrecht Gnauck (Environmental Informatics) and Günter Busch (Waste Management) as well as the coordinator of the ERM course Mohamed Elhag were, for example, awarded the »ERM cristal globe of appreciation«. The campus concert »Laut gegen Nazis« (Making a Stand against Nazis) formed a fitting end to the celebrations. Anyone who wanted even more culture after this was able to visit the Cultural Night on Saturday evening and the cultural festival »Cottbus Open« on Sunday, which ended a week of lasting impressions, interesting events and unique experiences. Katja Jäger, main organiser of the alumni conference, was very pleased with the event: »A big thank you to all supporters who helped make this event possible.«



< Musical presentation by Iranian students for the 20th anniversary celebrations

---

International Relations Office  
**KATJA JÄGER**  
 coordination Alumni Conference

---