



# CAMBRIDGE AFRICA

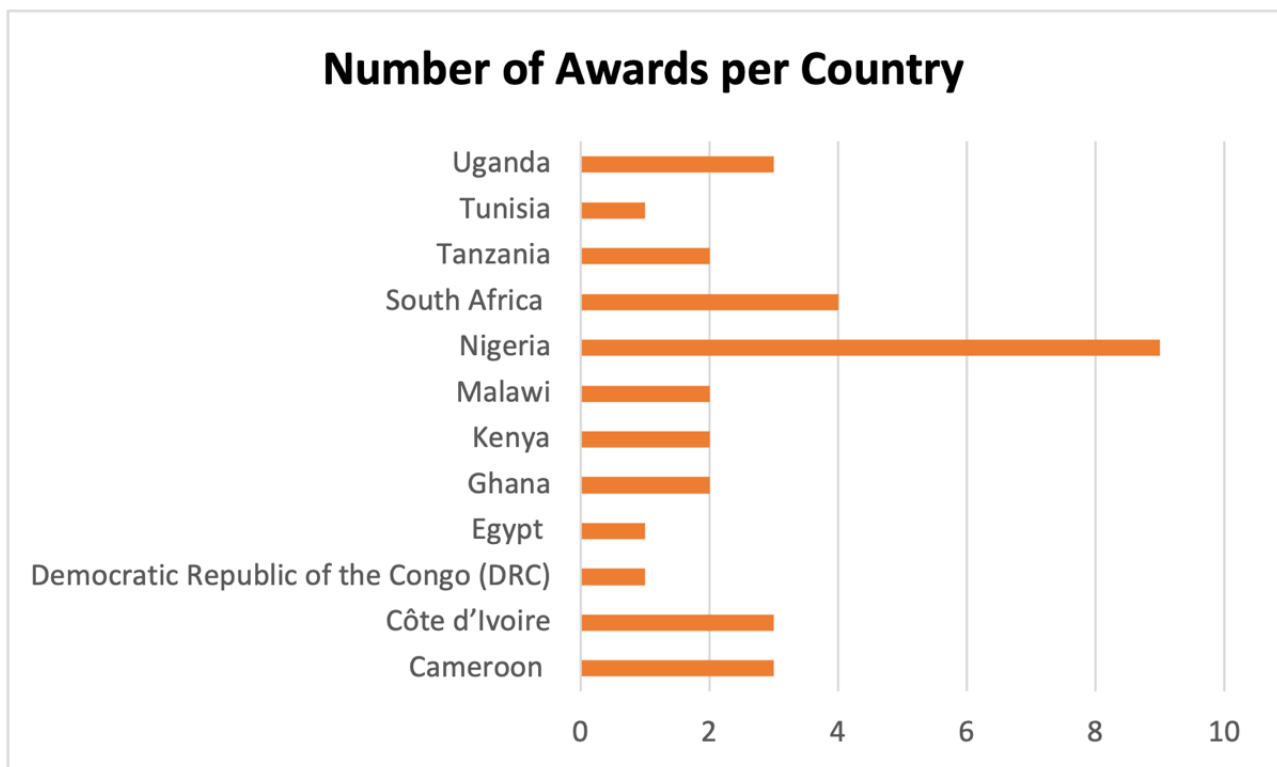


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**Welcome to the Cambridge-Africa Autumn 2023  
Newsletter**

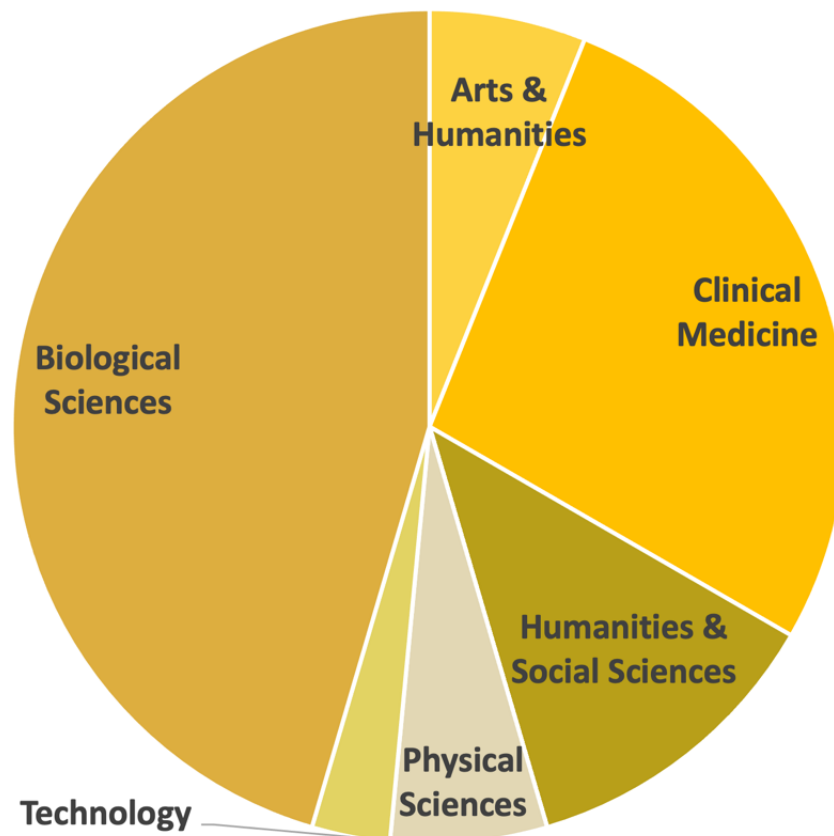
## Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund

Another academic year starts and for Cambridge-Africa that means we have just informed applicants on whether they have been successful in their proposals for the Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Funding. This year selecting the successful applications has been particularly challenging as we received a record number of applications, 50% more than usual. This is a great indication of the growing number of collaborations between Cambridge and African researchers. We have made 33 awards – the most since 2017. For the first time the awards were opened to collaborations with researchers in North African Universities. As a result, we have Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund projects in Tunisia and Egypt for the first time. The awards will support research activities with 12 African countries spanning north, west, east, central and southern Africa.



The collaborations involve researchers across all 6 Schools of the University of Cambridge and in 23 departments.

### Distribution of Awards by Schools 2023-24



If you are considering submitting an application for 2024-25, information can be found on the award's [Terms and conditions](#) on the Cambridge-Africa website. If you or others in your department would like to hear more about the funding, please contact [Corinna Alberg](#) to arrange a visit.

Please sign up to the [Cambridge-Africa researchers database](#) if you are a Cambridge academic and would be interested in collaborating with African researchers. The database enables African researchers to view the range of research expertise and identify areas of mutual interest among Cambridge researchers interested in working with African researchers. When accessing the database, we ask African researchers to direct their enquiries about potential collaborations to the Cambridge-Africa Team in the first instance.

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### Cambridge-Africa Annual Report 2022-23

Cambridge-Africa has published its annual report for 2022-23 which can be found [here](#) and also on the [Cambridge-Africa website](#). Please do check out our



website which we regularly update with Africa related events taking place in Cambridge, opportunities for funding, training courses and other items of interest, reports from the Cambridge-Africa programme as well as blogs on activities related to Cambridge-Africa.



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ANNUAL REPORT | 2022-2023





## Mastercard Foundation Scholarship Programme for African Students

This September the second cohort of students arrived to take up their scholarships for Master's programmes. Tabitha Mwangi, the Cambridge-Africa co-programme manager has been working as the interim academic lead for this programme for the past year as well as working for the Cambridge-Africa programme one day a week. A successful induction programme was held in September and the students are now immersed in their courses. Applications are open for the next intake of up to 70 students African students from across Africa. Women, people living with disabilities and displaced persons are particularly encouraged to apply. Further details can be found at <https://www.mastercardfoundation.fund.cam.ac.uk/news/applications-20242025-academic-year-are-now-open>



*Second cohort of Mastercard Foundation scholars, present at the welcome dinner at Wolfson College, September 2023*

The Cambridge University Ghanaian Society invites Ghanaian students who are coming to Cambridge to contact their whatsapp group. The Ghanaian society can offer advice to students both prior to coming to Cambridge and after arrival. For further information:

## WACCBIP – West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens

WACCBIP (West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens) is based at the University of Ghana and is one of the biggest biomedical research training programmes in Africa. It is a recipients of DELTAS II Africa funding and is a World Bank African Centre of excellence. WACCBIP has been associated with the Cambridge-Africa programme through both the CAPREx programme and as recipients of ALBORADA Research Fund awards, in conjunction with researchers in Cambridge. Through the DELTAs II programme, there is the opportunity for Cambridge researchers to work with up to six DELTAS II funded WACCBIP researchers and others in the consortium: the MRC Unit in The Gambia, the College of Medicine at the University of Liberia, the University of Lagos and the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research, University of Ghana. If you are interested in undertaking collaborative research on infectious and non-communicable diseases with the researchers in receipt of the DELTAS II funding from these institutions, please contact Corinna Alberg Cambridge-Africa programme manager at [ca392@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ca392@cam.ac.uk).

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## Lung health

Cambridge-Africa is a partner on the [PATSMECOR](#) programme, an initiative to support lung health research in Africa. Asthma is the most common non-communicable disease in children and adolescents in Africa according to the latest Global Asthma Report (2022) and lack of access to diagnosis and inhalers along with poverty, environmental exposers and stigma worsens outcomes. The Global Asthma Network is holding a symposium on 22 January 2024 in Auckland, new Zealand. Online attendance as well as in person attendance is free.

<http://globalasthmanetwork.org/advocacy/symposium2024.php>



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## Uganda Cancer Institute – Cambridge Collaboration

This summer we welcomed two medical students who were funded by Cambridge-Africa to take part in medical electives in oncology and haematology at Addenbrookes Hospital. Stella Nakaye and Yvonne Nakibirango pictured at the top of this newsletter have described the impact of their electives in blogs on the [Cambridge-Africa website](#).

**Read Stella's blog**

**Read Yvonne's blog**

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We also publish blogs on Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA research projects. Recent blogs include one on the dendrochronology workshop held in Zambia in August 2023. The workshop used 18 microscopes donated by the University of Cambridge's Department of Geography. The Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund paid for these to be transported to Zambia prior to the workshop at the Copperbelt University. Without the microscopes, much of the teaching and research conducted as part of the workshop could not have been done. The workshop involved students from Zambia, DRC, Namibia, Botswana Mozambique and Ghana. The microscopes will now be used by environmental



studies students at the Copperbelt University in Kitwe, Zambia.



*Using an increment borer, a non-destructive means to acquire tree-ring information in the form of a 5mm diameter core from the bark to the pith as part of the dendochronology workshop held in August 2023, Kitwe, Zambia*



*Demonstration of the consequences of not being snake aware while pursuing dendochronology.*

### **Read the blog on the dendrochronologie workshop held in Zambia**

Another ALBORADA Research Fund project examined bat and bird biodiversity in areas with palm oil cultivation in Liberia. In south west Liberia, oil palm is cultivated primarily in two ways. Firstly, in a traditional style, involving local communities practicing slash-and-burn agriculture in areas with wild-growing palms, which grow naturally in low-lying forested areas. Secondly, in an industrial style, involving large-scale corporations growing oil palm as a monoculture across vast areas of land. Both methods of oil palm cultivation support the livelihoods of local communities and also both come at the expense of native rainforest habitat. This project compared ecological conditions across plots to identify particularly sensitive parts of the ecosystem that are affected by oil palm cultivation.





*Andrew Gweh, a research student from the University of Liberia, setting up Audiomoth, a bioacoustic recording device that records vocalising animals. Using specialised software, the activity of bird and bat species can be quantified from the Audiomoth recordings.*

A workshop was also held on biodiversity monitoring with more than 40 of the University of Liberia students. Different methods of monitoring biodiversity were showcased.





**Read the blog on the palm oil plantations and biodiversity research in Liberia**

A further recent blog concerns research on using biomaterials as sustainable electrolytes for resilient battery systems.



**Read Habibat Chalul's blog on resilient battery systems**

Dr Habibat Chahul, Associate Professor of Physical Chemistry, of the Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi, in Nigeria collaborated with Professor Clare Grey of the University of Cambridge's Department of Chemistry. They have

been awarded further funding through the 2023/24 ALBORADA Research Fund awards for equipment for a different study on corrosion resistance in aqueous sodium ion batteries.

We are looking forward to this collaboration and the others funded for the coming academic year.



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