



SCHOOL OF GLOBAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

## The Africa Center Newsletter

Hello, folks! Happy Monday! Check out our newsletter to learn about some of the things we're attending, reading, listening to and watching to stay up to date on social, environmental, and sustainability issues in Africa!

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Dear Friends of The Africa Center,

As the year draws to a close, we extend our warmest greetings to you and your loved ones. May this holiday season bring you rest, joy and a renewed

sense of connection. We are deeply grateful for your continued engagement, curiosity and support throughout the year. Looking ahead, we wish you a New Year filled with possibility, inspiration and community.

Before we turn the page to 2026, we'd like to reflect on some of the moments that made this past year truly special at The Africa Center. From our monthly coffee socials—where lively conversations brewed alongside strong Kenyan and Ethiopian roasts—to the enriching guest speakers who anchored our **Eye on Africa** lecture series, it has been a year of learning and shared experience. Among our highlights were the inspiring interview with *Wode Maya*, whose storytelling continues to reshape narratives about the continent, and the powerful **Women for Environment Africa** panel, which brought essential voices to the forefront of environmental leadership.

We also enjoyed stepping outside the classroom with our field trip to the Denver Zoo, where participants explored the intersections of conservation, education and Africa-focused research. These moments of connection remind us why this work matters—and why we're so excited for what's next.

As we look to Spring, we feel energized by the opportunities ahead. We will continue our Africa-focused lecture series in partnership with the **Poudre Libraries**, deepening community engagement and expanding access to Africa-centered scholarship. Our **Eye on Africa** series will spotlight the *Peace Corps in Africa*, exploring histories, partnerships and personal narratives across the continent. And yes—another field trip is on the horizon! While the destination is still being finalized, we promise it will offer fresh ways to learn, explore, and connect.

Thank you for being part of our vibrant community. We look forward to welcoming you back in the Spring semester for more dialogue, discovery and shared learning.

Wishing you a peaceful holiday season and a bright start to the New Year.

Warm regards,

Dr. David Riep  
Director, The Africa Center

The Africa Center Staff:  
Dr. Paul Evangelista, Assistant Director

Media and Communications Coordinators:  
Julia Munsaka, Avery Ancell, Victor Kalalanda, Rebecca Sewu

Caty Dundas Gordon, Undergraduate Fellow

**LISTEN**

**Field Notes - Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Sulub**



In November's episode of our podcast Field Notes, we spoke with Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Sulub, President of Hargeisa University.

The conversation centered on his leadership of a vibrant institution in the Horn of Africa and the exciting new partnerships his university is building with Colorado State University. Listen to the full episode [here!](#)

## WATCH

### Eye on Africa with the Women for Environment Africa (WEA): Architects of the New African Conservation 2.0

The Africa Center hosted leaders from Women for Environment Africa (WEA) for an inspiring conversation on African women's leadership in conservation and environmental justice.

Speaking on From Resilience to Sovereignty, Accelerating African Philanthropy Beyond and Beyond the Field, the panel discussion highlights how WEA empowers women to transform environmental leadership across Africa.

Discover how this movement is cultivating impact, community and sustainability through African-led solutions and partnerships that advance wellbeing for people, ecosystems and future generations.

Watch the conversation to learn how women are shaping the future of conservation in Africa and beyond.

**Eye on Africa**

**WE lead WE talk WE move**

Join the Africa Center & the Women for Environment Africa (WEA) for a virtual panel discussion on the following topics:

- From Resilience to Sovereignty
- Accelerating African Philanthropy
- Beyond the Fortress
- Beyond the Field

**Dec 2, 2025**  
**12pm MST**  
**Meeting ID: 972 7111 8297**

Panelists: Fumekozi Ziane (Mali), Gaye Tson (Senegal), Winnie Kiru (Kenya), Nazario Dipinga (Namibia), Rakhaya Senoga (Senegal).

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Grants & Scholarships

The Africa Center is pleased to share the latest curated selection of grants and funding opportunities for faculty, researchers and students engaged in Africa-related scholarship and collaboration.

From fieldwork support to major collaborative initiatives, these deadlines span spring 2026 through fall 2026. Explore the opportunities below and reach out to our office for proposal development assistance.

- [British Ecological Society](#): Round 1 opens **January 12** and closes **January 25, 2026**
- [The Society for Archeological Sciences \(SAS\)](#): Apply by **February 16, 2026**
- [Environmental Research and Education Foundation](#): Apply for the EREF Scholarship by **March 2, 2026**
- [Mohamed Bin Zayed Foundation Species Conservation Fund](#): Apply before **March 31, 2026**
- [Jana Robeyst Trust Fund](#): Accepts applications throughout the year, but only three rounds of grants are made: **30th April, 31st August and 31st December** each year
- [The Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology](#): Apply by **October 24, 2026**
- [Wenner-Gren Foundation](#): Application deadlines are **June 1** and **December 1**

- [Rufford Foundation funds](#): Rolling deadline

## SEMESTER AT A GLANCE

Here's a look at what the Africa Center was up to throughout the semester!

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### Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance Field Trip

On Saturday, October 11, 2025, The Africa Center organized an educational visit to the Denver Zoo. It brought together our staff, African graduate students and their families for a day of learning, connection and cultural engagement.

The outing created a relaxed and welcoming space for participants to explore wildlife conservation while strengthening community bonds beyond the university setting.

During the visit, attendees engaged with animal care staff and learned about the zoo's global conservation initiatives, with particular attention given to projects in Uganda and Rwanda.

Participants also met animal ambassadors and gained insight into how conservation programs support endangered species, protect ecosystems and contribute to sustainable development across Africa and other regions of the world. The experience offered valuable learning opportunities for both adults and children alike.

Beyond its educational value, the trip provided students and families with a refreshing opportunity to explore outside Fort Collins and enjoy quality time together in a fun and enriching environment. Meaningful interactions, laughter, and shared experiences made the day especially memorable.

The Africa Center extends sincere appreciation to the Denver Zoo for their hospitality and to Dr. Lynn Von Hagen, Regional Conservation Director for Africa for making this experience both enjoyable and informative.

The visit reflects our ongoing commitment to research, education and engagement between Africa and the U.S.





## The Africa Center co-sponsors Taste of Africa night teeming with food, music and color

In October, more than 500 people filled the Lory Student Center Grand Ballroom at Colorado State University for Taste of Africa, the African Graduate Students Association's annual flagship celebration of the continent's people and culture.

The night opened with an ebullient flag parade representing over 20 African countries, each carried proudly by students in traditional attire.

Attendees watched as Senegalese boubou, Ghanaian kente cloth, Nigerian kaftan and Kenyan kitenge, among others, flowed down the runway in a colorful demonstration of regular fashion and ceremonial dress.

Live performances kept energy high. A dance troupe had the crowd clapping along while folk songs kept the audience captivated and yearning for more.

Later, guests sampled mouth-watering dishes from across Africa including jollof rice and egusi soup from West Africa, injera from Ethiopia, and East African pilau.

Co-sponsored by The Africa Center, the event once again proved the enduring appeal and value of African culture on campus.





## Visit from President of the University of Hargeisa and November Coffee Social

In November, Africa Center hosted Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Sulub, President of the University of Hargeisa in Somaliland, to strengthen academic collaboration under an existing international MoU.

During his visit, he met with Vice Provost for International Affairs Kathleen Fairfax, engaged with researchers at the Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory and attended the Graduate Student Showcase poster session.

His trip concluded with a private tour at the Denver Zoo to view wildlife species native to Somaliland that are currently threatened or endangered.

Dr Sulub's visit also included a meet-and-greet at our November coffee social, where he connected with students and faculty.

As part of tradition, guests enjoyed freshly brewed coffee, a light breakfast and a unique treat, nitrogen ice cream! The ice cream was generously provided and prepared on-site by Heather Michalak, Director of the Little Shop of Physics at Colorado State University's Little Shop of Physics.

Below are some photos from Dr. Sulub's visit and the memorable morning of conversation and cultural exchange.





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**Want to add something to next month's newsletter? Let us know!**

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