Report of Bertil Nlend's (SYSTA awardee) experience at the last IAHS conference (Montpellier, May 29 – June 04)

Arrival at Montpellier

I arrived at Montpellier on Sunday May 29 without any difficulties. This arrival was facilitated by the presence of other awardees with me. In addition, all information concerning the way to join the hotel had been shared on SYSTA awardees whatsapp group.

The same day, with many colleagues we checked in at conference place. This took us few minutes.

Participation at the conference

From May 30 to June 03, I attended to many sessions at the conference and one workshop on Open Sciences. The themes covered concern: socio-hydrology, citizen science, droughts and society, resilience of water system and gender issue. These themes are out of my main scientific domain and I felt truly inspired. I confess that I learned many important things that yet I was supposed to know such as Panta Rhei initiative, the 23 UPH formulated during the last decade.

Being in a SYSTA group, I could know colleagues from diverse countries. With some of theme I planted seeds for future collaboration. For instance, it is the case with Ana Elisabeth from Ecuador, Ankit from India and Moctar from Burkina-Faso.

I also exchanged with many delegates from my main discipline. In summary, in term of networking, SYSTA gave me a great opportunity.

Some recommendations or remarks for the future

SYSTA is a good initiative which has to continue over the time. However what I can propose to "improve" it is to try develop a system of mentoring between volunteers awardees who are early career scientists and some senior researchers. This will be benefit for IAHS and will foster inclusive research. On my own experience, during my talk, Professor Elango did me the honor of being present. He saw my research interests and after we had a good discussion. Wish it was the same for every awardee. Finally, what I propose is that, SYSTA process should not end with the conference but has to continue in a mentoring system.

Abstract: <u>Multi-isotopic approach to identify groundwater flow paths, relationships with rivers and sources of contaminants in the Regional Quaternary Aquifer of the Lake Chad Basin.</u>
Session S17 <u>Tracer methods in catchment and critical zone hydrology</u>

