

**Report on the Workshop on Online Access to  
Research in the Environment  
18 December 2019, Yaounde, Cameroon**

## **1. Introduction**

This is a report on the OARE/Research4Life training workshop for environmental experts and information professionals in Yaounde Cameroon. The workshop was hosted by the Cameroon Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development on 18 December 2020.

## **2. Workshop Objectives**

The overall objective of the e-resources workshop was to build the capacity of environmental experts and information professionals to make use of the latest literature and research made available to them through various electronic platforms, including OARE and other open access platforms. This in turn will increase the usage of OARE and enhance the quality of training and research at their respective institutions.

The Specific objectives for the e-resources workshop were:

1. To introduce participants to OARE and other R4L programmes
2. To train participants on how to use various search strategies to access and retrieve full text articles and other scholarly information (i.e. E-Journals, E-books, Data, E-Thesis and other scholarly grey literature) from OARE and other databases relevant to the broad subject of Environmental Science
- 3 To introduce participants to Open Access Resources showing them the main features and how to navigate.
4. Increase awareness and usage of OARE and other R4L programmes.

## **3. Expected Outputs**

At the end of the workshop, participants were expected to:

1. Search and retrieve full text articles from OARE and other programmes on their own;
2. Make use of open source and open resource platforms
3. Appreciate copyright and licensing issues in an electronic environment
4. Use the retrieved articles from various electronic platforms for in-text citations and generate bibliographies and references using a software of their choice.

## **4. Workshop Delivery**

The topics covered during the workshop were i) overview of Research4Life programmes, ii) Research4Life e-resources with a special emphasis on OARE; and iii) Search strategies.

The facilitator aimed to make use of participatory methods in training and transferring e-resource skills. Some methods that were used include: group discussions, informal interactive sessions, practical sessions (hands on exercises) and power point presentations. Participants were given a number of exercises on OARE. They followed through the exercises during the practical sessions as they were guided by the facilitator. During the practical sessions participants were expected to find articles using various search strategies and options for searching through the R4L, Google and Open access platforms. The facilitator provided support to participants who required more help/attention. The workshop was delivered in French.

The workshop was conducted by Angeline Djampou, UNEP OARE Programme Manager, with remote support from Ms. Virginia Gitari and in-house support with the in house support of Ms. Valerys Jouoguep from the Cameroon Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development.

## **5. Participation**

A total of 27 participants from the five institutions attended the workshop :

- i. Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development
- ii. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- iii. Ministry of Water Resources and Energy
- iv. Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
- v. Cameroon's National Institute of Statistics.

The meeting ended at 5:30 pm.