

Welcome Peter!

The Division Soil Sciences and Geoecology of the Institute of Environmental Sciences and Geography welcomes Peter Eze from the Botswana International University of Science and Technology in Palapye. Peter won a Georg-Forster Fellowship of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and will research in the field of “Salinity impact on formation and structure of clay minerals in semi-arid soils: fundamental insights from soils of Botswana”. Clay minerals are important constituents of soils responsible for nutrient availability, water balance and soil structure. A comprehensive knowledge about clay minerals enables to manage soil stability and counteract erosion as well as optimize agricultural use of soils. In addition to that, clay can have a stabilizing effect on organic soil matter and contribute to the fixation of carbon. Nevertheless, salinization is a process typically occurring under dry conditions that can alterate structure and properties of clay minerals. Knowing these processes in detail essentially supports a sustainable soil management. Peter starts with his research at the University of Potsdam on 1st of February 2023.

Peter did his Bachelor in Agricultural Sciences at the University of Nigeria in Nsukka and his Master of Philosophy in Soil Science at the University of Ghana in Legon. He received his doctor’s degree in the field of Environmental and Geographical Science with a focus on Quaternary Palaeopedology at University of Cape Town, South Africa. We are happy that Peter will now work in our group and we are curious on his knowledge, insights and perspectives.

