

NEW MEMBER PROFILE

Christine Atuhaire

Ph.D. Student, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

About my work

My research centers on the remote sensing of plastic litter. Using advanced satellite and aerial imagery techniques, I aim to map, quantify, and analyze the spatial distribution of plastic debris in aquatic environments. This study contributes essential insights into the extent of plastic pollution, offering valuable data for informed environmental policies and effective mitigation strategies.

Inspiration for this work

I was motivated by my deep concern for environmental sustainability and the escalating global issue of plastic pollution. Witnessing the detrimental impact of plastic litter on ecosystems fueled my commitment to contribute meaningful insights through advanced technologies. Therefore, by leveraging remote sensing, I aim to provide actionable data for effective environmental conservation and policy initiatives, fostering a cleaner and healthier planet for future generations.

Something else about myself

I am enthusiastic about collaborative efforts and knowledge exchange within the IAGLR community, aiming to contribute valuable insights to the collective understanding and conservation of the Great Lakes. I am looking forward to engaging in discussions and shared initiatives for the betterment of our cherished freshwater resources.



NEW MEMBER PROFILE

Katie Rousseau

Smart Great Lakes Liaison, Great Lakes Observing System

About my work

For the past four years, I've been coordinating the work of the Smart Great Lakes Initiative, which aims to advance technology applications that improve our understanding, use, conservation, and management of the Great Lakes. In 2021, the initiative completed the Common Strategy for Smart Great Lakes, which includes 10 goals, 14 objectives and 42 actions. More recently, I've been working with partners to implement the strategy. In addition, I manage a number of projects for GLOS with legislative, educational, and environmental justice components. I also help plan events and assist in communications work.

Inspiration for this work

After completing my graduate degree in geography and planning at the University of Toledo, I started working for American Rivers, a national conservation nonprofit. My first task was to lead the Rain Garden Initiative of Toledo-Lucas County with people I just met. It was in this role where I learned to work with and manage partners to accomplish shared goals. I found that I enjoy bringing together people with various backgrounds and skill sets to address water challenges.

Something else about myself

I really like to share what I'm learning about the Great Lakes with my family. So, a lot of our family activities and vacations revolve around water. We like to vacation in northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula to look for rocks, fish, and enjoy the beautiful landscapes. A favorite activity closer to home is releasing Lake Sturgeon in the Maumee River every year.