

ISNAD-MRP Mentorship Experience

Mentor: Dr. Alexandre Strapasson, Imperial College London

Mentee: Collins Ouma Oduor, University of Nairobi, Kenya

Topic: Establishment of pasture enclosures restores soil organic carbon and increases greenhouse gas emissions in semi-arid rangeland, Kenya

I am delighted that I was a part of the ISNAD Mentoring for Research Programme which was a great success. In a world where seemingly every piece of information can be “Googled”, there is still some knowledge that can only be gained through experience. The ISNAD-MRP program is the best example of that.

I started exchanging with Dr. Alexandre Strapasson when I had just submitted my thesis for examination and two research manuscripts for publication. We had over 22 conversations (e-mails and Skype calls) between August and December 2018 where Dr. Strapasson shared with me insightful comments, suggestions and ideas on how I would improve the contents of the thesis and make it interesting. He also shared exciting documents which turned out to be important in my work.

Dr. Alexandre Strapasson has been an exceptional mentor. His kindness, willingness to share his own experiences and information, are all qualities that I have learned from him. Beyond that, he has helped me become a better version of myself rather than trying to mold me to his perspective. His constant support has been invaluable. Our regular conversations helped me grow, immensely both personally and professionally. His ideas helped me discover my potential and also learnt how things are/work in my field of reserch.

The best part of my mentoring relationship with Dr. Strapasson is the fact that I have gained a trustworthy supporter, a confidant and a professional promoter. He has provided me with much-needed reflection and given me some invaluable perspectives of my career that will make me whole-round person.

I am obliged to Dr. Alexandre Strapasson for making the mentorship enjoyable and impactful. I also thank the ISNAD-MRP Team for introducing me to a great mentor.