

REFLECTIONS ON THE AFRICA YEARBOOK

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Between 2014 and 2017 I served as co-editor of the *Africa Yearbook*.

Published by Brill the *Africa Yearbook* covers all major domestic political developments, the foreign policy and socio-economic trends in sub-Saharan Africa. After three years of overseeing the West Africa section, my tenure as co-editor came to an end in October. In the following I provide some insights about the publication and into my personal editorial experiences over the years.

Africa Yearbook serves as a scholarly resource for scholars, policymakers and the broader public. Written by country experts, the individual chapters analyze the most important political and economic events. No other publication regularly provides country-specific and contemporary insights. Since 2015, it has also been possible to buy a compilation of the chapters, covering the whole timespan for selected countries.

The visibility of the Yearbook has increased quite significantly since the publication of the first volume thirteen years ago. Almost all academic libraries in North America and Europe subscribe to it. In 2012 the Yearbook won the African Studies Association's Conover-Porter Book Award. Scholars researching event data are the most frequent users, but it is also intended as a reference tool for diplomats, people active in development cooperation and NGOs. The Yearbook is also useful for students, or anyone wanting to learn more about contemporary developments in Africa.

The production of the Yearbook is an international endeavor. In 2017 it received generous support from four academic institutions: The UF Centre for African Studies, the German Institute for Global and Area Studies, the Nordic Africa Institute (Sweden), and the African Studies Centre (Netherlands).

Contributing to the Yearbook offers scholars the opportunity to join a network of researchers from across the globe. Our authors came from North America, Europe, Africa. Some are very senior, others only

recently finished their PhD. It is probably the most diverse group of scholars I have worked with.

Editing the Yearbook takes a lot of time and makes for very long evenings. Many authors have been trained in education systems outside the anglophone world and the editorial work can take much time. But reading through so many country chapters significantly improved my own understanding of the political and economic complexity of the African continent.

It was an honor to be part of this exciting international and multidisciplinary project. The production of the 14th volume is well under way and I look forward to receiving my copy in October 2018.

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