TRAINING PRIVATE SECTOR AND GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS ON PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (PES) IN UGANDA

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INSTRUCTOR AND ORGANIZER BIOGRAPHIES

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Biryahwaho Byamukama, Executive Director, Nature Harness Initiatives
Biryahwaho Byamukama (BB) is the Executive Director at Nature Harness Initiatives (NAHI) in Uganda. His professional expertise lies in ecosystem services, and the promotion of market based mechanisms for improved natural resources management. NAHI is a non-governmental, not-for-profit conservation and development organization which supports social and economic benefits for the delivery of natural resource preservation. BB frequently collaborates with private sector corporations to assist in managing environmental impacts as well as communities to support sustained ecosystem services benefits. BB has been in the field of environmental economics and conservation for over 15 years and is an expert in PES project design and implementation.

Dr. Miguel Leal, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Miguel Leal has over ten years of experience, in terms of scientific research, technical advice, and conservation policy, in the area of climate change and tropical forests. His doctoral research used biogeography and ecology to study and identify climatically resilient forests in Gabon. He has worked closely with conservation organizations and government agencies to assess the anticipated impact of climate change on Africa’s forests. By combining GIS analyses with extensive field research, he has developed a technical approach used by conservation policy makers in Gabon and Equatorial Guinea to help identify priority areas for conservation and REDD financing as well as assess the impact of climate change on ecosystem services. His conclusions have been published and are under consideration for the incorporation in the CCBA (Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance) gold standard. His findings have been published in several peer reviewed publications regarding climate change, and he presented his approach to estimate ecosystem resilience in Central Africa in at the pre-COP15 scientific conference in Copenhagen in 2008. At the COP-15 climate change talks in 2009 he served as a technical advisor to the Government of Gabon on REDD. Currently, he is the REDD specialist for WCS in the Albertine Rift Valley.

Wilfred Chemutai, Project Manager, UWA- Face Project
Wilfred is currently working as project manager for UWA-Face in Kibale National Park. He has worked for the project for the last 10 years in both Mt Elgon National Park and Kibale. He also worked in softwood plantation management as manager in charge of plantations in Mt Elgon National Park carrying out harvesting and replanting harvested areas. Wilfred has his B.Sc. in Environmental Science from Nkumba University as well as a Diploma in Project Planning and Management and a Certificate in Forestry.
Dr. Sara Namirembe, World Agroforestry Centre, PRESA
Dr. Sara Namirembe has over 10 years of experience in issues of natural resource management and incentives for environmental services. A Ugandan national, Sara has worked in both academic (Makerere University) and NGO sectors. Prior to joining the World Agroforestry Centre, she worked as a Coordinator of the East and Southern Africa Katoomba Group’s Incubator, and is well acquainted with ongoing payments for environmental services (PES) initiatives in the region. Sara has extensive experience in Agroforestry and facilitating collaborative/participatory natural resource management and conservation with programs like EMPAFORM Uganda (Strengthening and Empowering Civil Society for Participatory Forest Management in East Africa) under Budongo Forests Community Development Organisation, PEMA (Participatory Environment Management) Nature Uganda, and Environmental Alert. Prior to that, Sara served for eight years in the academic community as a lecturer and department head of Community Forestry and Extension in the Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation at Makerere University. She holds a B.S. in Forestry from Makerere University; a Master’s in Forestry and Environmental Management from the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton; and a Ph.D. in Forestry and Agricultural Sciences from the University of Wales, Bangor.

Mr. Francis Ogwal Sabino, Natural Resources Management Specialist, National Environment Management Authority
Francis joined NEMA as an Environmental Impact Assessment Officer in June 2003. He is now a Natural Resources Management Specialist (Terrestrial Biodiversity and Rangelands) since June 2005. He is a holder of a Master of Science Environment and Natural Resources Management and Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry. He has worked in the field of natural resources management since 1994. He has done professional short courses in Environmental Impact Assessment, Food Safety and Biosafety, Hydropower and the Environment, Management Development Programme and in Environmental Compliance.

Tom Rukundo, Environment Impact Assessment, National Forest Authority (NFA)
Rukundo Tom Ndamira is currently working with National Forestry Authority as an Environment Impact Assessment and Research Specialist, is a trained, experienced and an innovative Environment Management and Conservation Specialist with more than 18 years experience. He holds a BSc degree in Forestry and MSc degree in Environment and Natural Resources Management from Makerere University. Tom has worked with different organizations on natural resource management including government and other development partners including the European Commission, World Bank, DFID, NORAD and USAID, among others. He is also a member of the REDD+ working group for Uganda and is assisting in writing Uganda’s R-PP.

ORGANIZER BIOGRAPHIES

Lilly Ajarova, Executive Director, Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust
Lilly Ajarova is the Executive Director of the Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust (CSWCT) in Entebbe, Uganda. Lilly received her MBA from the Maastricht School of Management Institute, ESAMI, focusing her research on Chimpanzee Tourism in Uganda. She has been the Executive Director of CSWCT since 2005, and in November 2009 was awarded a Responsible Tourism Award at the World Travel Market exhibition in London. Prior to this position, she worked with the Uganda Wildlife Authority for 8 years in various senior management capacities including public relations manager, marketing manager, and tourism development manager representing UWA and the Uganda Tourism and Wildlife Industry at various conferences and exhibitions across Africa and Europe.
Beto Borges, Director, Communities & Markets Program, Forest Trends
Beto was born and raised in São Paulo, Brazil, where he obtained an AA degree in industrial chemistry from Escola Técnica Oswaldo Cruz and worked as an ecotourism guide in the Atlantic rainforest. Beto holds a Bachelor's of Science in Conservation and Resources Studies from the University of California, Berkeley, and an MBA in Strategic Leadership from the Dominican University of California. His previous work experience includes being Director of the Brazil Program of the Rainforest Action Network, promoting forest policies, community economic development and indigenous land demarcation in the Amazon region. He also worked for Aguirre International, evaluating environmental programs for AmeriCorp-USA during President Clinton's administration and was the Manager of Sustainable Harvesting at Shaman Pharmaceuticals, developing ethnobotanical drugs from rainforest medicinal plants. As the Executive Director of Adopt-A-Watershed, he worked on watershed conservation through place-based learning methodologies. Beto also was a Program Officer with the Goldman Environmental Foundation, selecting finalists for the Goldman Environmental Prize and evaluating project proposals for funding. Beto has also consulted for Aveda Cosmetics, Conservation International, Instituto Terra, Occupational Knowledge International, and Wildlife Conservation Network, among others. He was co-chair of Grantmakers Without Borders and currently sits on the board of the Global Greengrants Fund, Earth Island Institute, and the Environmental Law Defenders Center. He is fluent in Portuguese, English, and Spanish.

Paul Hatanga Mukiza, Project Manager, Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust
Paul has more than five years experience in conservation projects with NGO and government partnerships. He currently leads the Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust’s PES project. Prior, he worked for two years with CSWCT as a Conservation Officer and two years with NatureUganda, the Birdlife Partner in Uganda, implementing community-based sustainable natural resource management to enhance conservation of endangered birds and chimpanzees in the Albertine Rift forests. He is skilled in the design and implementation of conservation and development projects with an education and community action approach. In particular, Paul has worked to implement UNDP/GEF, UNEP/GEF, DFID and CARE funded projects. His particular expertise is in Community Based Natural Resources Management with an emphasis on ape conservation, ecosystems management and sustainable land management. He received his BSc. in forestry from Makerere University and has post-graduate qualification in Tropical Ecosystems management and project planning and management.

Tommie Herbert, Program Associate, The Katoomba Group, Forest Trends
Tommie is a Program Associate with The International Katoomba Group (TAKG). Her work focuses on supporting training, policy advising, and network building around ecosystem services payments and markets. Tommie received an undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University in International Leadership and Development and Spanish. Tommie worked with the Environmental Defense Fund’s (EDF) Land, Water, and Wildlife Program delivering research reports and conservation policy analyses for sustainable agriculture in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Here she gained valuable experience in implementing ecosystem service markets on a local level. Prior to EDF, Tommie worked with the Country Music Association in Nashville, TN, where she helped design and implement a grassroots online marketing campaign for the CMA Music Festival 2008.

Rebecca Vonada, Program Associate, Communities & Markets Program, Forest Trends
Rebecca is a Program Associate with the Communities and Markets Program at Forest Trends. Her work focuses on community involvement in developing payment for ecosystem services. Rebecca has a Master’s Degree in Development Planning and Environmental Sustainability with a certificate in Latin American Studies from the University of The Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International
Affairs and a Bachelor’s degree from Juniata College in Environmental Science and Policy. Prior to coming to Forest Trends, Rebecca worked in a rural community in Ecuador, teaching community members how to keep their children safe when applying pesticides. Rebecca speaks English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Sissel Waage, Director, The Katoomba Group, Forest Trends

Sissel is Director of The International Katoomba Group. She has over eighteen years of experience working on environmental issues and social aspects of sustainability in Africa, Europe, and North America. Prior to working with Forest Trends, Sissel launched and directed the R&D Program at The Natural Step, an international advisory services and research organization focused on sustainable business. She also served as a subject matter expert with The Natural Step’s Services Group, advising Fortune 500 companies on integration of sustainability into strategy, operations, reporting, and philanthropy. Sissel has also worked with Sustainable Northwest and the World Wildlife Fund’s (WWF) East and Southern Africa Program. She has consulted with a range of private, nonprofit, and philanthropic clients, including: IDEO, Business for Social Responsibility, “The Head Table” Reality TV Program, the Garfield Foundation, the Packard Foundation, the Biodiversity Support Program, and the University of California Berkeley’s Blodgett Forest Research Station. Her work has been published in journals including Corporate Environmental Strategy, Society & Natural Resources, Political Geography, the Journal of Sustainable Forestry, and the Journal of Cleaner Production. Sissel completed both her Ph.D. and M.S. at the University of California, Berkeley in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management, and received her B.A. from Amherst College, in Massachusetts. She has also studied at the University of Oslo, in Norway, as a Fulbright Scholar, and at the National University of Singapore.