



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

PHD DRYLAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Current Profile

The Phd programme in Dryland Resource Management offered at the University of Nairobi was launched in October 2008 on behalf of 24 Universities of East and Central and Southern Africa under their umbrella organization, the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM). Broadly, the programme aims to address the pressing regional need for sustainable development of drylands and improved livelihoods through innovative interdisciplinary human capacity building that integrates natural sciences and social sciences. The primary goal of the programme is to train a critical mass of doctoral cadre of experts in dryland resource management for the region, which will subsequently be utilized to train more capacity. It is hoped that the programme will contribute to NEPAD's goal of eradicating poverty and putting African countries on the path of sustainable economic growth and development. The programme consists of two components: a coursework component taken during the first year and a research component taken during the second and third year. Although the programme is hosted by the University of Nairobi, the trainers are drawn from any of the member universities. Qualified resource persons from both the private and public sector also participate in teaching and/or research supervision/mentoring, making the product of this training relevant to the prevailing development environment. A total of 37 applications from seven (7) countries were received during the initial call to the programme. Due to lack of sponsorship to most of the applicants, only 17 were able to join the programme out of which 15 are sponsored by Rockefeller foundation through RUFORUM.

A majority of students in this first cohort of 17 are concluding their three year program and are on track to graduate by the end of the year. Out of this lot of seventeen students, six have so far submitted their thesis and are expected to defend these and at least graduate in September of 2011, (probably the largest graduating Doctoral group from a single department at the University of Nairobi). A further 4 students are expected to graduate during December 2011. All the rest of the students have made significant progress in completing write-ups for the first three to four chapters of their theses and have plans to wind up their studies early next year. All students who have attended this programme have either drafted and or submitted at least two journal articles

while several have had their journal articles accepted in peer reviewed journals. As a component of University of Nairobi's testing program and curricula for this programme, almost all students have at one time or another presented their research works at conferences, attended research capacity enhancement workshops, attended soft courses etc. The profiles for each of the students, indicating their backgrounds and progress of work to date are presented overleaf.

The second intake of students for this programme took place at the beginning of 2011. The programme received a total of 36 applicants from eight (8) different countries within East and central Africa including Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Botswana and Ethiopia. Out of these, only eight (8) students were able to report (again due to lack of funds to support their studies), most of whom are either privately/employer sponsored. This group of students have recently completed the programme coursework requirements and are entering the crucial stage of proposal development and subsequently, research. A large number of them are still uncertain as to whether they will be able to undertake their research activities as they have not been able to secure funding to drive this. The Department and University in general is working to leverage various efforts to support the research activities of these students. Various activities are presently coming on board that may support two to three of the students but for the most part, the university continues to explore various avenues to support our students and welcomes partners to assist us in this process.

Finally, the university has already advertised for application to the programme for the 2010/2011 academic year (third intake), the response of which has so far been quite positive.

PhD in Dryland Resource Management-University of Nairobi – Class of 2011 (Cohort 1)

Profiles as of July 2011



Tasokwa Kakota is a Malawian, currently pursuing a PhD in dry lands resource management at the University of Nairobi funded by RUFORUM. The current PhD studies has strengthened and exposed her to a diverse of expertise, as such she has knowledge and skills in areas such as dryland resource management and livelihoods, gender analysis, climate change and variability issues, mathematical modeling, proposal and technical writing, and social and anthropological research methods. She is a lecturer in mathematics in the department of basic sciences at Bunda College of Agriculture in Malawi. She holds a Bachelor of Education majoring in mathematics from University of Malawi, Chancellor College, and Masters degree from Virginia Tech and State University, USA. Tasokwa has also worked as a curriculum

specialist in mathematics. She has assisted her country to develop mathematics curriculum for tertiary, secondary and primary education. Tasokwa is affiliated to a number of professional bodies namely; Southern Africa Mathematical Sciences Association (SAMSA), Mathematics Association of Malawi (MASAMU) and International Network for Women Scientists and Engineers (INWES). Her current research interests are on the application of mathematics in solving issues related to climate change and variability, gender and food security that are pertinent in Africa and drylands, in particular. She has good facilitation skills. Her contacts are: Bunda College of Agriculture, P.O. Box 219, Lilongwe, Malawi, Cell: +265 999 693330 or +254738510456, Fax:+265 1 277281, Email:tasokwakakota@yahoo.co.uk or vkakota@bunda.unima.mw

PhD Progress:

- **Research title:**The Impact of Climate Variability and Extreme Weather Events on Gender and Household Vulnerability to Food Insecurity
- **Journal Articles:** Has submitted three articles in conferences, presented two, submitted one article to journal (under review).
- **Other achievements during PhD course:**Won research grants from AAU and ARDEP. Presented two papers in conferences
- **Target graduation date:** September 2011
- **Thesis submitted:** Yes



Sarah A. Nalule is a Female Uganda national born on 16th December 1968 in South Western Uganda and married with three children. Currently a Lecturer, department of Wildlife and Animal Resources Management, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Makerere University, Uganda and a PhD (Dryland Resource management) finalist candidate, University of Nairobi. Sarah served as a member of Uganda Veterinary Board (UVB) (2000-2008) and is a member of the of the Makerere University Buyana Stock Farm management steering committee. She also serves on two of Makerere University quality assurance committees (Anti-sexual harassment committee and gender mainstreaming committee), in addition to being a member of

the University curriculum review. Sarah coordinated two of the Ministry of Agriculture Animal industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) courses for extension workers' capacity building implemented by the faculty of veterinary medicine, Makerere University. Sarah graduated with Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine 1997 from Makerere University, MSc. (Range management, 2000) from University of Nairobi. She has accomplished a number of consultancies in line of dryland resources in Uganda. Sarah has actively supervised students special projects; guided three master students in research concept development and co-supervised a master student. Sarah has coordinated a research project on environmental issues (Dunia Moja) for Stanford University –USA that involved four African Universities. She is also Faculty contact person for Millennium Development Goal village. Sarah is a Supergoat cluster development facilitator, an innovative system cluster programme (ISCP) East Africa. In her outreach extension, she has built capacity of 1620 farmers in sustainable agriculture in Wakiso district. She has built and enhanced her knowledge and skills in a number of fields including sustainable agriculture, gender analysis and development, financial management, Human resources management, advocacy, scientific writing and communication, monitoring and evaluation and pedagogy. Sarah is dedicated to Natural resources management and rural development. Sarah can be contacted at snalule@vetmed.mak.ac.ug/snalule@gmail.com and cell phone +256 772 588010.

PhD Progress:

- **Research title:** Ethnopharmacology, phytochemical composition and toxicity of medicinal plants used against livestock helminthes in Ugandan cattle corridor.
 - **Journal Articles:**
 - Published: Nalule, A.S, Mbaria, J. M., Olila, D. and Kimenju, J. W., 2011. Ethnopharmacological practices in management of livestock helminthes by pastoral communities in the drylands of Uganda; Livestock Research for Rural Development, **23**, Article #040. Retrieved January 12, 2011, from <http://www.lrrd.org/lrrd23/2/nalu23040.htm>
 - Accepted: A S Nalule ^{1*}, J M Mbaria ², D Olila³, J W Kimenju⁴:Ascaricidal activity and phytochemical constituents of root tuber *Rhoicissus tridentate* (L.f.) Wild & R.B. Drummond (Vitaceae) ethanolic and aqueous extracts (by Tropical animal health and production journal)
 - 4 others manuscripts being drafted.
 - **Other achievements during PhD course:**
 - Received small research grant from AAU
 - Received research fund support from Makerere University
 - Submitted my thesis for examination to UON
 - Participated in the GCARD conference in France
 - Co-supervised an Msc student in Makerere University that has submitted for examination.
 - Won and accomplished a food and agriculture organization of UN consultancy
 - **Target graduation date:** September 2011
 - **Thesis submitted:** Yes
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Elias Otieno Obudho is a Kenyan national born on 23th October, 1962. He holds a masters degree in Mathematical Statistics and BSc degree in Mathematics, both from the University of Nairobi, Kenya. Obudho has a certificate in an external program course in Research Methods for Agronomists from the Wye College, University of London. Mr. Obudho is a Statistics/Biometrics Lecturer and currently involved in research, research supervision and consultancy, advising graduate students and other researchers on biometrical issues, research methodologies, experimental designs and analysis. Mr. Obudho has worked as a Statistical Consultant to (1) Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Livelihood Programme (PRSL) of UNDP-

Somalia, (2) Oxfam GB on Regional Report on the Status of Pastoralism, (3) Africa Harvest Biotech Foundation International and (4) Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) Soil Health Program. He is currently a registered PhD student in Drylands Resource Management at the University of Nairobi. His research focus is in modeling and climate change where he intends to apply his conceptual and analytical abilities in making a contribution towards poverty alleviation in the drylands. This contribution should enhance pastoralists' livelihood while fostering preservation, conservation, improvement and continued welfare of the environmental and natural resources and sustainable development. Mr. Obudho is a member of the International Biometrics Society (IBS) He can be contacted at: P.O Box 29053-00625, Nairobi, Kenya, cell +254 722251124. Email: eobudho@uonbi.ac.ke and eliasobudho@yahoo.co.uk

PhD Progress:

- **Research title:** Modeling Climate Related Index-Based Livestock Insurance to Enhance Pastoralists' Resilience in the Drylands
- **Journal Articles:** Drafted: 1) Factors Influencing Pastoralist Communities Vulnerability in Group Ranches, (2) Conceptualization and Measurement Challenges: Modeling Risk and Vulnerability
- **Target graduation date:** December 2011
- **Thesis submitted:** No



Baaru Mary Wamuyu is a Kenyan national born on 23th July, 1964. She holds a masters degree in Environmental Studies, BSc degree in Agriculture both from Kenyatta University and the University of Nairobi, Kenya respectively. She is currently a registered PhD student in Drylands resource Management at the University of Nairobi. She has worked in various capacities as an extension agent in the Ministry of Agriculture, Kiambu District, Kenya. At the ministry Headquarters, she worked in the budget, parliamentary affairs and environmental conservation office. Her field of specialization is dry land resource management, land use and cover change, soil and water conservation and food security. Her

interest is water conservation to improve land productivity and climate change adaptation in the drylands. She can be contacted at: P.O Box 9000-00300, Nairobi, Kenya, cell +254 722 267 824. Email: bmwamuyu@gmail.com or wabaaru@gmail.com

PhD Progress:

- **Research title:** Effect of vegetative macro contour lines on soil moisture content and crop performance
- **Journal Articles:** Submitted: 1) Trends in land use and land cover over a 21 year period in Kathekakai Settlement Scheme, Machakos District, Kenya. Submitted to African Journal of Environmental Science and technology, 2) Effect of vegetative macro contour lines on soil moisture conservation and crop performance in Machakos District, Kenya. Submitted to African crop science
- **Other achievements during PhD course:** C.K.K Gachene and Baaru M.W. (2011).Vegetative macro contour lines: Effect on soil moisture conservation and crop performance in Machakos District, Kenya. Awarded the best paper of the theme " Agriculture and food security" during the 4th National Council of Science and Technology held at KICC, Nairobi, Kenya
- **Target graduation date:** September 2011
- **Thesis submitted:** Yes



Vendeline Emmanuel Tairo is a Tanzanian national. He holds a masters degree in Forestry and Dryland Biodiversity from Sokoine and Addis Ababa Universities respectively. He is currently a third year PhD student in Drylands resource Management at the University of Nairobi. He has worked as research assistant at Sokoine University and as a Forest Officer at Njombe. District.. He has also worked as a consultant on roles of local institutions in conflict resolution in eastern arc mountain forests. He is an Assistant lecturer at Mkwawa University College, A constituent College of University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. His field of specialization is plant resources utilization in the drlands. His interest is counteract food insecurity in the drylands. He

can be contacted at:, cell +255 784 913612. Email: vtairo72@gmail.com or vtairo@yahoo.com

PhD Progress:

- **Research title:** Utilization Of Woody Plants In Times Of Food Scarcity From Selected Drylands Of Iringa District, Tanzania
- **Journal Articles:** Accepted: Nutritive and Anti-nutritive Qualities of mostly preferred edible woody plants in selected drylands of Iringa District, Tanzania
- **Thesis submitted:** No



Debela Hunde Feyssa is an Ethiopian national, married. He was born on 1st May 1965. He graduated with BSc. (Biology, 1984), MSc. (Dryland Biodiversity, 2001), University of Addis Ababa. He is currently Assistant Professor in Dept. of Natural Resources Management (NRM), College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine Jimma University. On top of teaching and research he has experience in academic management at different capacities, college and university level; doing community based research in collaboration with stake holders. He supervised many students during their senior researche and senior seminars at University level

and participated on Regional and International scientific conferences. He has published 15 papers on different journals and proceedings. He has participated in the writing of books for literacy and post literacy, Oromiya National Regional State and course modules and Associate editor of a journal. Merited professional for which he has been awarded 4 times by institutions where he served. In 2007/2008 academic year he has got **Teaching Excellence Award** by JUCAVM at Jimma University. Since 19 Oct, 2008 he is a PhD student of Dryland Resources Management at University of Nairobi. He has submitted his PhD thesis in May, 2011 for examination. He can be contacted at: feyssahunde@yahoo.com

PhD Progress:

- **Research title:** A Comparative Analysis of the Use and Management of Wild Edible Plants on Food Security among Transhumance and Settled Farmers in Semiarid East Shewa, Ethiopia
- **Journal Articles:** 4 articles are published, 2 are submitted and under review, for 1 article the abstract is accepted to be presented on 10th Annual Conference of Association of African Crop Science Society
- **Target graduation date:** September 2011
- **Thesis submitted:** Yes



Elizabeth Nduku Muthiani is a Kenyan and a holder of Msc. Degree in Biology of Conservation and undertaking PhD in Dry Land Resource Management at the University of Nairobi. Her research and development interest are in natural resource management particularly on livestock wildlife interactions in the pastoral areas. After her Bsc in Range Management, she worked with the Gallmann Memorial Foundation, an NGO based in Laikipia Ranching Company Limited, Laikipia District, Kenya, with interests in promoting coexistence of wildlife and livestock in the drylands of Kenya as an ecologist. After her Msc in Biology of Conservation., she

has been working with Kenya Agricultural Research Institute in charge of research on Livestock wildlife interactions. In 2000 -2001, she was a research fellow at the International Livestock Institute (ILRI-Kenya). She is the coordinator of Alternative Livelihood Option (ALO) in the Range program research in KARI. She can be contacted at: Kenya Agricultural Research Institute, Kiboko Range Research Centre, P.O Box, 12, 90138, Makindu, Kenya. Cell. Phone 0722 899 289. Email: enmuthiani@gmail.com

PhD Progress:

- **Research title:** The Impact of Community Wildlife Sanctuaries on Pastoral Livestock Production System
- **Target graduation date:** May 2012
- **Thesis submitted:** No



Eunice W. Githae is a Kenyan national and is currently a PhD student in Dryland Resource Management at the Department of Land Resource Management and Agricultural Technology, University of Nairobi and fully sponsored by Regional University Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM). She is also an assistant lecturer in the School of Natural Resource Management, Narok University College. She graduated with BSc. in Biological Sciences (2002) and MSc. in Plant taxonomy and economic botany (2007), both from the University of Nairobi. Eunice has been a research assistant under several EU funded projects at the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) carrying out research on soil fertility

improvement and genetic characterization of trees, shrubs and microsymbionts for genetic improvement programmes and conservation of genetic resources. She has also carried out several consultancies on various aspects of natural resource management and food security as well as community outreach programmes on soil and water conservation. She has so far won four awards with two successful proposals since 2008. She has several publications and has attended numerous research conferences, trainings and workshops. Her areas of interest are natural resource management and improvement of dryland rural livelihoods. Eunice can be contacted at email: egithaeh@gmail.com and mobile phone: +254 725 286 095

PhD Progress:

- **Research title:** Effects of soil physicochemical properties and genetic characteristics on the distribution of *Acacia senegal* (L.) Willd. varieties in the dryland areas of Kenya.
- **Journal Articles:** She currently has two publications from her PhD work: one submitted in a peer reviewed journal on soil physicochemical properties under *A. senegal* varieties in the dryland areas of Kenya and the other in a book on genetic characterization of *A. senegal*, edited by Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), which is a contribution from the finalists of the 2009/2010 African-wide Women and Young Professionals in Science Competition
- **Other achievements during PhD course:**
 - Women in Science Award (5th position) granted by CTA/FARA/AGRA/RUFORUM/ANAFE/NPCA
 - Poster Presentation Award (2nd best) granted by RUFORUM
 - Abdou-Salam Quëdraogo Fellowship Award granted by Bioversity International
- **Target graduation date:** September 2011
- **Thesis submitted:** Yes



Kudra, Abdul is a Tanzanian national. He is Assistant Lecturer at the Department of Crop Science and Production, Faculty of Agriculture, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro, Tanzania. He graduated with BSc. (Horticulture, 2005) and MSc. (Crop Science, 2007) from Sokoine University of Agriculture. Kudra has won two distinguished Scholarship Awards while at the Sokoine University of Agriculture. In 2005 he won a two-year Msc. Scholarship in plant breeding from

Rockefeller Foundation and He is currently in 3rd year, doing PhD in Dryland resource management at University of Nairobi under RUFORUM programme. He has enhanced his skills by attending seminars and workshops include 3rd General meeting of the Rockefeller Foundation support program, Biotechnology, Breeding and Seed systems for African crops and Personal Mastery and Soft Skills Training. His research thrust has been on low input subsistence crop production systems prevalent in Tanzania and sub-Saharan Africa with the objective of increasing productivity to met the increasing food demand and curb food deficits. Research that addresses major production constraints abiotic and biotic stresses (climate variability, pests and diseases etc.). Kudra can be contacted at: abkudra@suanet.ac.tz, abkudra@yahoo.com and Telephone: +255(0) 686004540 (mobile).

PhD Progress:

- **Research title:** Influence of soil fertility management on *Striga* seed bank dynamics and grain yield of sorghum in semi arid area of Tanzania.
- **Journal Articles:** Drafted: 1) The influence of different sources of fertilizer on *Striga* reproduction and sorghum grain yield 2). Physico-chemical characteristics of *Striga* infested soils and their influence on *Striga* reproduction
- **Other achievements during PhD course:**
 - Kudra has also won 15 000 USD, from IDRC research grants during the PhD course
- **Target graduation date:** September 2011
- **Thesis submitted:** No



Robert Mulebeke is a Ugandan national, currently a candidate on the Regional PhD programme in Drylands Resource Management at the Department of Land Resource Management and Agricultural Technology (LARMAT), University of Nairobi, Kenya, under a scholarship by the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM). He has a Diploma in Education (1991, ITEK), BSc. Agriculture (1996, MAK) and MSc. Soil Science (2004, MAK). He also has a postgraduate Diploma in Groundwater Exploration, Water Resources Exploitation and Conservation (2007) from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. He was among the team in a writeshop process leading to the production of a text book entitled 'Managing Natural Resources for Development in Africa: A Resource Book' organized by IIRR, IDRC and RUFORUM, April 2010. The book was launched during the Ministerial Conference on Higher Education in Agriculture in Africa, held in Kampala, Uganda, Nov 2010.

He is a member of research team together with scientists from Uganda's National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) implementing a Rockefeller funded project 'Mitigating the Effects of Climate Change in Smallholder Crop-Livestock Systems in the Lake Victoria Crescent Zone'. Robert has attended a Workshop on Uncovering Sustainable Development CLEWS; Modeling Climate, Land-use, Energy and Water (CLEW) Interactions, jointly organized by the International Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Trieste, Italy, June 2011.

He is currently an Assistant Lecturer at the Department of Agriculture, Kyambogo University, Uganda and can be contacted at rmulebeke@yahoo.co.uk, rmulebeke@kyu.ac.ug

PhD Progress:

- **Research title:** "Enhancing water use efficiency in dryland cropping systems in eastern Uganda". The study evaluates effects of cropping systems and tillage management strategies on soil water flows in cassava and sorghum cropping systems. He was awarded an IFS grant (W/4652-1) in 2009 under the title "Water use efficiency in dryland cropping systems: Characterization of surface and green water flows in cassava and sorghum based farming system of eastern Uganda". This grant helped to secure some basic equipment like soil sampling kit, tension infiltrometer and a set of tensiometers, which were used to kick-start the project. The last field experiment is on-going till end of August 2011. A research application summary entitled "Enhancing water use efficiency of cassava and sorghum based cropping systems in drylands" was presented during the Second RUFORUM Biennial Meeting 20 - 24 September 2010, Entebbe, Uganda.
- **Journal Articles:** Drafted: 'Soil moisture dynamics in cassava-sorghum based cropping systems in the drylands of eastern Uganda.' is being prepared for submission to the African Crop Science Journal.
- **Thesis submitted:** No



Oswin C Chibinga is a Zambian national and married. He was born on 20th August 1968. He is currently a PhD fellow in Dryland Resource Management at the University of Nairobi under the sponsorship of RUFORUM. He is also a lecturer in the Department of Animal Science at the University of Zambia. He graduated with BSc. (Agriculture with a major in animal science, 1991), from the University of Zambia, Lusaka, MSc. (Management of Natural Resources and Sustainable Agriculture, 2001) from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (formerly Agricultural University of Norway), Post Graduate Diplomas (Pig Husbandry and in Animal Feed Technology, 1996) from Barneveld College, The Netherlands. He has experience in running of commercial stock feed production having run a commercial stock feed plant. He has contributed to writing of manual (for agricultural extension workers) in livestock physiology, reproduction, nutrition, pasture and range management and facilitation of the same for Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in 2007. Oswin is a Zambian national and married. He can be contacted at ochibinga@yahoo.co.uk

PhD Progress:

- **Research title** Climate Variability: Enhancing Adaptive Utilisation Of Grassland And Browse Species In The Agro-Pastoral System In Gwembe Valley, Southern Zambia
- **Journal Articles:** Submitted: Climate Variability Perception, Livelihood Strategies and Adaptation Among Pastoralists in Southern Zambia; Drafted: 1)Climate Variability; Enhancing Adaptive Pasture use for improved livestock production in Choma District, Southern Zambia,

2) Effect of Lopping of *Julbernardia globiflora* so as to determine the appropriate browse harvesting regime. Being.

- **Thesis submitted:** No



Richard Moyo is a Zimbabwe national currently pursuing a PhD in Dry lands Resources Management at the University of Nairobi funded by RUFORUM. He is a Lecturer at the Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture and natural resources management, Africa University, Mutare, Zimbabwe. He graduated with BSc. (Agricultural Engineering, 1997), MSc. (Water Resources Engineering and Management, 2004) from University of Zimbabwe. Previously he worked for over 5 years as Provincial Water Engineer at the Ministry of Water Resources and Infrastructure Development's District Development Fund where he gained vast experience in design,

construction and maintenance of irrigation schemes, small to medium dams and borehole before joining the Midlands State University as Lecturer in the Department of Land and Water Resources Management. As an academic staff member and researcher he has published journal and conference papers and his research interests are in irrigation and agricultural water productivity. He has consulted in the area of irrigation and water management. My current research interest is on the effects in conservation agriculture practices on soil moisture and carbon dynamics in relation to climate change and variability. Richard can be contacted at: Africa University, Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Resources Management, P.O Box 1320, Mutare, Zimbabwe, Cell: +263 772 884 253/ +263 733 010 181, Fax :+263 20 61785 richmoyo2004@yahoo.co.uk or moyor@africau.ac.zw

PhD Progress:

- **Research title:** Climate variability and Tillage practices: Effect on soil moisture, carbon dynamics and crop productivity in semi arid Zimbabwe
- **Other achievements during PhD course:** Presented a conference paper
- **Thesis submitted:** No



Ndung'u Joseph Njoroge is a Kenyan national born in 1967. He holds a Master of Science degree in Range Management (Animal Nutrition) and BSc degree in Range Management both from the University of Nairobi, Kenya. He is currently pursuing PhD in Dryland Resource Management at the University of Nairobi. He worked as an extension officer with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development for 5 years before joining the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute in 1998 as a livestock research scientist. He also worked as a research associate in the USAID/ Global Livestock CRSP/Livestock Information Network and Knowledge System (LINKS) Project based at ILRI Nairobi Campus. He has held several research coordination positions while in KARI. His fields of

specialization are livestock production systems, natural resource management and on-farm participatory research-for-development. His PhD study is on the impact of climate variability on forage resources and livestock production in the drylands and developing appropriate adaptation

strategies. He can be contacted at: P.O Box 12-90138 Makindu, Kenya; Cell: +254 724 236. Email: jngichuru@yahoo.com

- **Research title:** Predicting nutritional status and performance of free-grazing cattle through NIRS faecal profiling in southeastern drylands of Kenya
- **Journal Articles:** Drafted: Effect of climate variability on forage and livestock productivity in the drylands of southern Kenya (drafted). Using historical data (2001 – 2010) on rainfall, forage production and livestock mortality from drought for KARI Kiboko as a case study.
- **Other outstanding achievements during the PhD course :** Received financial support of KES 871,000 (~USD 11,000) for fieldwork from the Kenya Arid and Semi Arid Lands (KASAL) project in KARI in October 2010.
- **Target graduation date** December 2011.
- **Thesis submitted:** No



Mugerwa Swidiq is a Ugandan national. He was born on 3rd march 1980. He is a resource ecology and Biosystems specialist, with key competence in animal resource ecology and management, biosystems analysis, environmental securities and livelihood systems analysis and environmental resource extraction and impact assessment. He holds a masters degree in Animal Science, BSc degree in Agriculture both from Makerere University, Uganda. During his MSc studies, he came out with effective and affordable interventions for rehabilitation of degraded termite-infested

rangelands. His work provided a continuum of recommendations aimed at generation of ecologically sustainable termite management strategies in arid and semi-arid ecosystems. He is currently a registered PhD student in Dryland resource Management at the University of Nairobi. He is currently working as an animal nutritionist and rangeland ecologist at the National Livestock Resources Research Institute located in eastern Uganda. He can be contacted at: P.O Box 96, Tororo, Uganda; cell +256 782660295. Email: swidiq@yahoo.com

PhD Progress:

- **Research title:** "Ecology of subterranean termites (Isoptera) on grazing lands in semi-arid Nakasongola, Uganda".
- **Journal Articles:** Papers accepted: 1) "Termite assemblage structure on Grazing lands in Semi-arid Nakasongola" (to be published in the June issue of the Agriculture and biology journal of North America). 2) "Effect of biotic and abiotic factors on composition and foraging intensity of subterranean termites" (to be published in the June issue of African journal of environmental sciences and technology) and 3) "Farmers' Ethno-ecological Knowledge of the Termite Problem in Semi-arid Nakasongola" (to be published in the June issue of African journal of agricultural research).

- **Target graduation date:** September 2011
- **Thesis submitted:** Yes



Zziwa Emmanuel is a Ugandan national, born on 9th January 1981. He holds BSc. Agriculture and MSc. Animal Science degrees from Makerere University, Uganda. He is currently pursuing a PhD. in Dryland Resources Management, in the University of Nairobi, Kenya under sponsorship from the Regional Universities Forum (RUFORUM) for capacity building in Agriculture. Zziwa Emmanuel has been involved in various projects working as a research assistant in Makerere University and the

National Agricultural Research Organization of Uganda. He participated in editing a text book: "Managing Natural Resources for Development in Africa: A resource Book" which is a joint publication by RuFORUM, IDRC, IIRR and UoNP. His career objective is to be actively involved in research, plan and manage research projects geared towards improved food production in a sustainable environment and to contribute to decision-making processes and formulating policies for sustainable management of our natural resource base and towards making our world a better place. He can be contacted at: ziwaemma@yahoo.com; ziwaemma@agric.mak.ac.ug.

PhD Progress:

- **Research title:** "Land use and cover changes in the rangelands of Uganda: impacts on soil quality and pasture productivity"
- **Journal Articles:** Drafted: 1) Land use and cover changes in Nakasongola district, Uganda (1986 – 2004): Implications on sustainability of savanna ecosystems, 2) Effects of land use and cover changes on soil quality and pasture productivity in Nakasongola district
- **Other achievements during PhD course:**
 - Received a thesis writing grant from AAU
 - Participated in FSC sandwich program at ILRI Nairobi for training in GIS and remote sensing
 - Won a travel grant from McKnight found to participate in climate change symposium in PenState University, USA
- **Target graduation date:** December 2011
- **Thesis submitted:** No

PhD in Dryland Resource Management-University of Nairobi – Class of 2013 Profiles



Bibianne Wanja Waiganjo is a Kenyan citizen born on 1st January 1977. She has been a Lecturer in the Department of Natural Sciences, Mount Kenya University (formerly Thika Institute of Technology) since 2007. She is currently the Dean in the school of pure and applied sciences. She has also taught as a part time lecturer at Greta University, Kenyatta University and Gusii institute of technology. She holds an MSc. Degree (Applied parasitology, 2006) and a Bachelor of science degree (Botany and Zoology) both from The University of Nairobi. During her Msc she conducted research that sought to assess the efficacy of cow dung as a deliberate aquatic pollutant against *Anopheles gambiae* mosquitoes. She also attended an international training on "laboratory techniques in malaria vector control" sponsored by Gates malaria programme. She is currently a board member of Kenya Red Cross Society Thika Branch. She is a PhD degree student in Dryland Resource Management at the University of Nairobi. [bibianne2010@yahoo.com](mailto:bibiannen2010@yahoo.com)



Peris Mweru Kariuki is a Kenyan citizen who holds a Masters in Environmental Science and Bachelors in Environmental Studies obtained on October 2002 and 1996, both from Kenyatta University. For the last eight years, she has worked as a Research Scientist with National museums of Kenya, Centre for Biodiversity Department Kenrick Section. She has been involved in indigenous knowledge documentation, prioritization of indigenous species for conservation, policy development, training and dissemination of information especially on medicinal plants. She has co-authored at least two publications. Her research interests are indigenous knowledge, ethnobotany, medicinal plants, biodiversity informatics and climate change. She is currently enrolled on a PhD degree programme in Dry land Resource Management at the University of Nairobi. Contacts: P.O. Box 2303 00202 KNH Nairobi Kenya. Tel: +254 722 615 259 and e-mails: pmweru@yahoo.com or pkariuki@museums.or.ke



Dr. Patrick Mwambi Mwanyumba (BVM, MSc) is a Kenyan veterinarian working with the Ministry of Livestock Development. Patrick graduated with a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Nairobi and an MSc in Livestock Production Systems from the same University in 1986 and 2010 respectively. Patrick has a long and wide field and administrative experience in veterinary services in various stations and capacities serving farmers, pastoralists and the veterinary profession. He is currently stationed at the GOK veterinary department headquarters and at the same time undertaking PhD studies in Dry-land Resource Management at the University of Nairobi. His research interests are in analysis of the livestock trade across Kenya's borders, the current locations of major cross-border markets, how they work, their linkages to other segments of the value chain and the trade implications to the country in terms of economic contribution and disease control. Contacts: Tel. +254 722 797987, E-mail mwahouse2005@yahoo.com, mwahouse2005@gmail.com



Koech Oscar Kipchirchir is a Kenyan national born on 25th July, 1985. He holds a masters degree in Range Management, BSc degree in Range Management both from the University of Nairobi, Kenya. He is currently a registered PhD student in Drylands resource Management at the University of Nairobi. He has worked as research assistant in various projects addressing climate change and adaptation. He has also worked as a consultant on various aspects of environment and food security and has also been a graduate assistant at the University of Nairobi during his postgraduate studies. He is a part time lecturer at Mt. Kenya University, main campus in Thika-Kenya. His field of specialization is dry land resource management, livestock nutrition, environment management and conservation. His interest is the invasive species (*Prosopis juliflora*), its implications to pastoral livestock production and climate change adaptation in the drylands. He can be contacted at: P.O Box 00625-00625, Nairobi, Kenya, cell +254 725 513 044. Email: okkoech@yahoo.com



Judith Mbau is a Kenyan national working with the National Museums of Kenya Department of Zoology since 2004. She holds a masters in Biology of Conservation and a BSc in Botany and Zoology both from the University of Nairobi. She is a Research Scientist, specialized in studying the ecology, taxonomy, distributions, abundance and conservation status of mammals especially African mammals. She has wide experience in the ecology and conservation of tropical savannas, forests, wetlands and threatened species. She has undertaken research and consultancies on various aspects of environment and conservation. She is the Departmental coordinator of the National Museums of Kenya Scientific Expo, and represents the institution in various National Task Forces. She coordinates community trainings on integrated natural resource management. She has contributed chapters in the "Mt Kenya East Pilot Project for Natural Resource Management", and the "Maasai Mau Forest Biodiversity Assessment" technical reports among others. Contacts: jsyombua04@yahoo.com or jmbau@museums.or.ke Tel:+254 722 212100.



Mr. Elhadi, Yazan Ahmed Mohamed is a citizen of Sudan. He works for University of Kordofan, as an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, Faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies. Yazan holds a BSc in Agricultural Economics (Honours) and an MS.c in Range Management "Economics Option", which he obtained in 2007 and 2010 from the Universities of Kordofan and Nairobi, respectively. His research interests are in food security, Poverty, Climate Change Modeling, adaptation, mitigation coping strategies, Vulnerability, socio-economic studies and Natural Resource Management. His contacts are: P.O Box 611-06, North Kordofan state Elobied Sudan. Tel: +254 737 776 273; e-mail: yazan498@yahoo.com or yazan.a.m.elhadi@gmail.com



Staline Kibet is a Research Scientist based at the National Museums of Kenya with interest in Community Ecology, Economic Botany and Indigenous Knowledge. He holds a BSc degree in Range Management from the University of Nairobi and an MSc degree in Botany from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. He has over 10 years research experience working with diverse ecosystems and cultures in Kenya. He has been involved in various multidisciplinary research activities as a Principal investigator / Lead expert and has published his work in international peer reviewed journals, book chapters and technical papers. Mr. Kibet is a member of International Society of Ethnobiology (ISE), Katoomba Group, Kenya Forest Working Group, and Society for Conservation – GIS Kenya chapter. He also has interest in Forest Certification and currently undergoing FSC auditor certification trainee course. Currently, Mr. Kibet is pursuing a Ph.D degree in Dryland Resource Management at the University of Nairobi and can be contacted at skibet1@yahoo.com or skibet@museums.or.ke



Mary Morara is a Kenyan agriculturalist. She has a BSc in agriculture general from Nairobi University, postgraduate diploma in planning and management of development from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa and MBA-marketing from Kenyatta University. She has vast knowledge in agriculture extension having worked with Ministry of Agriculture for more than ten years. Currently undertaking PhD studies in Dryland Resource Management at the University of Nairobi.

She can be contacted at P.O. Box 72357-00200 Nairobi. Kenya
Email-maturwe@yahoo.com
Cell phone- +254 720488335