



Kwaslema Malle Hariohay

2019 One Planet Laureate Candidate

Position

Wildlife Research Officer

Institution

Tanzania Wildlife Research
Institute (TAWIRI)

Country

Tanzania

Education

MSc, Land use changes
and impact of human
settlement, Norwegian
University of Science and
Technology

Mentor

Dr. Mohammed Yahya Said,
Associate, University of
Nairobi (UoN)

Research Area

Climate change, human
population growth and
land-use changes

Hariohay was born in a rural village in Karatu District in Gerkrum/Arusha, in the north of Tanzania. His village was sandwiched between the Ngora Conservation Area and the Lake Manyara National Park. Wild animals roamed freely in their neighborhoods.

Named after his grandfather, Hariohay was the fourth both in a family of five boys. All his siblings never made it to school beyond grade eight. Education was not that important in his family.

He was grazing his family's cattle near the primary school one day when he saw children being registered into grade one. He always had the desire to join school but his parents had no such plans. So, he made his way to the queue and gave his name. The cattle, left unattended, found their way into the school farm and destroyed the crops. He got a thorough beating later that evening but it didn't matter to him because he knew he had achieved his goal of starting school.

His bachelor's degree was on wildlife management at the Sokoine University of Agriculture. Upon completing his studies in 2008, he was employed in a game reserve under the Ministry of Natural

Resources and Tourism in Tanzania as a Game Officer. In 2011, he joined a master's scholarship program in natural resources management (NRM) at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Norway.

Upon completing his master's studies, Hariohay was promoted to the position of Project Manager and transferred to Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI).

Through the AfricanBioServices (ABS) he got another scholarship to study Ph.D. at the NTNU. His research project was on the Human-Wildlife Interactions in the Ruaha-Rungwa Ecosystem, Central Tanzania. He graduated in June 2019.

Hariohay is currently working at TAWIRI in the position of Wildlife Research Officer.

Hariohay believes that rural communities have more expertise than the researchers. He marvels at their indigenous knowledge. They know what would work best for them. "We may lose a lot of knowledge if we don't consult them.

Let us develop the technologies together with them and in the process, we shall improve our own lives as well. Let's work with, and not for them," says Hariohay. He emphasizes the urgency of the task ahead because farmers need the solutions to the problems they are facing immediately.

Hariohay applied for the opportunity while still studying in Norway. Initially, it looked like it was targeting women only. His supervisor, however, encouraged him to apply with the clarification that gender focuses on both men and women. It was his first time to get this understanding of gender.

He was drawn by the themes that would be covered by the program. In fact, at the time he was searching for studies on climate change and that is when he chanced upon the One Planet Fellowship call. He liked that the program had a global focus, and was flexible, allowing him to keep working with the community back at home.

He was impressed with the unique content of the mentoring workshop. "I have participated in many conferences but this is the first time to be trained on leadership, networking, and cultural diversity," he noted. He is looking forward to network with fellow candidates from other nationalities.

Hariohay desires to work with farmers to improve their lives through technologies that will reduce the impact of climate change. "We may lose a lot of knowledge if we don't consult them. Let us develop the technologies together with them and in the process, we shall improve our own lives as well."

Growing up, Hariohay was driven by big ambitions. He set big goals for himself, yet feels he has not yet achieved enough. For him, having earned a Ph.D. is not an achievement until he uses the knowledge to transform his community.

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He feels that smallholder farmers are gambling with the seasons and still using old farming practices. They have no information about climate change – and that the seasons have changed.

His long-term goal is to sit at the decision-making table in an international organization and influence decisions concerning the effect of climate change on smallholder farmers in Africa.

Kwaslema Malle Hariohay is one of the growing number of candidates selected to participate in the One Planet Fellowship. The One Planet Fellowship is a career development initiative that is building a robust pipeline of highly connected, inter-generational scientists equipped to use a gender lens to help Africa's smallholder farmers cope with climate change. The One Planet Fellowship is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the BNP Paribas Foundation, the European Union and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC). African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) and Agropolis Fondation are jointly implementing the Fellowship.

Do you have any further questions? Send an email to : oneplanet.award@cgiar.org