



## Offoro Kimambo

2019 One Planet Laureate Candidate

Offoro Kimambo was born and raised in Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. He is a lecturer at the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in the College of Science and Education, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies in, Morogoro, Tanzania.

He is currently pursuing his PhD in environmental sciences at the University of Venda in Limpopo, South Africa. The focus of his research is on climate variation, ecohydrology, and the effect of climate change on the harmful algal blooms (HABs). His interest in algal blooms is because of their potential to cause harm to the health of people and animals.

They are a type of algae found in water surfaces and which fish feed on. It has been established that due to climate and hydrological variations and nutrients inputs (eutrophication), the algae are overproducing, and thus sometimes releasing harmful toxins known as cyanotoxins into the water.

This affects the fish because they deplete the oxygen in the waters. The harmful algae also have a mechanism to adapt to climatic conditions.

The call for the One Planet Fellowship came at an opportune time because at the time he had started collecting data from the field for his research project.

He had designed his study in a way that would help him gather background information from small-scale fish farmers on the incidences of algae blooms/blue-green algae in the fish ponds. This information would then be combined with the lab findings and the data on environmental trends.

The fellowship is relevant to his study because it is integrating gender, climate change and smallholder farmers, which are the main focus areas of his study.

Offoro is also concerned about the nutritional deficiencies among children in Tanzania and sub-Saharan Africa in general.

He participated in a training under the USAID - Feed the Future programme where the statistics on stunted growth and malnutrition were shared.

### Position

PhD student

### Institution

Sokoine University of  
Agriculture (SUA)

### Country

Tanzania

### Education

MSc, Environmental  
Sciences, Tamil Nadu  
Agricultural University,  
India

### Mentor

Professor Felister Mombo,  
Associate Professor,  
Sokoine University of  
Agriculture (SUA)

### Research Area

Climate variation,  
ecohydrology, and the  
changing environment  
on harmful algal blooms  
(HABs).

He is hoping to link the research he is doing on harmful algae to the nutritional status in Tanzania, and the challenges presented by climate change.

He has come to realize that farmers have knowledge about what they are doing. Researchers must therefore start from what farmers know. Unfortunately, researchers assume they have all the answers.

After his PhD programme, Offoro plans to carry on with his passion for training, research and outreach at SUA. He aspires to be a vibrant researcher, and intends to grow into a full-fledged professor in environmental science and climate change.

He is inspired by the words of François Hollande, the former president of France who said: "we have a single mission to protect and hand on the planet to the next generation." What concerns Offoro is that while Africa is producing the least amount of carbon dioxide, its citizens are suffering the most from the negative effects of the gas.

Climate change is currently the biggest risk to Africa's growth. He urged that the stunted growth statistics should be taken very seriously because the continent will not have the brains to find solutions to the problems facing them in a few years to come. "We must create a sense of urgency on this issue," said Offoro.

Kimambo aspires to be a vibrant researcher in environmental science and climate change. He wants to use his position to improve the capacity of farmers to fight the challenges presented by climate change. "We must create a sense of urgency on this issue."

Offoro has not received or offered any formal mentoring thus far. He noted that this is something missing in most institutions yet is highly needed, and is looking forwarding to the opportunity of mentorship offered by One Planet Fellowship.

**Offoro Kimambo** 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](mailto:oneplanet.award@cgiar.org)