



## Saumu Tama Shaka

2019 One Planet Laureate Candidate

### Position

Senior Meteorologist

### Institution

Kenya Meteorological  
Department

### Country

Kenya

### Education

BSc, Meteorology,  
University of Nairobi, Kenya

### Mentor

Patricia Nying'uro, Principal  
Meteorologist, Kenya  
Meteorological Department

### Research Area

Climate Change  
Adaptation and Mitigation,  
Food Security, Risk  
Management and  
Sustainable Development.

Saumu Tama Shaka works at the Kenya Meteorological Department as a Senior Meteorologist.

Her interest in meteorology was influenced by her father who was a meteorologist. He used to present the weather report on the national television station, Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC). She would watch him present with a lot of interest.

During a short-term assignment for a Participatory Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (PVCA) project, she saw the challenges the community members were facing as a result of drought. This exercise led her to develop a new interest in supporting communities to adapt to climate change.

She applied for a Master of Science degree at the Institute of Climate Change Adaptation, at the University of Nairobi which she is still pursuing.

In 2017, during a visit to her rural home in Ndile Village, Taita-Taveta County, she gathered farmers and had a discussion with them concerning climate change.

She found out that people knew what climate change was doing to their lives but they did not know how it came about. She concluded that communities need awareness on climate change.

An opportunity to develop an intervention came in the form of a course – the International Training Programme on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation East Africa 2018- that was sponsored by the Swedish Development Agency (SIDA).

The course required her to do a change project in a community of her choice.

She chose to follow up on the conversation she had started with farmers in her village and carried out an assessment of risk and vulnerability caused by climate change in the area.

Shaka seeks to create empowered innovative youth leaders, including people living with disabilities, with access to advisory services and appropriate climate-smart agribusiness technologies to create jobs and enhance food security in Africa.

She presented her results to the project coordinators, and her project emerged the second best. She is planning to advance the study in her master's thesis.

She came across the advertisement for the One Planet Fellowship on social media.

What attracted her to it at first was the fact that it was focused on women, and she saw an opportunity for future funding for her Masters and PhD. She was also drawn by its focus on smallholder farmers.

Shaka is motivated her desire to help people find solutions to issues affecting them. She has seen first-hand people going hungry in the villages and is keen to help them change their farming practices and increase their farm productivity.

The soft skills she hopes to gain from the One Planet Fellowship will add value to the meteorology department's plan to reach a wider audience especially the youth through the use of social media.

Her purpose road map is to create empowered innovative youth leaders, including people living with disabilities, with access to advisory services and appropriate climate-

smart agribusiness technologies to create jobs and enhance food security in Africa.

She is targeting to reach 300,000 social media users over the next three years with climate change messages.

**Saumu Tama Shaka** 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)