



Douglas Bwire Ombogoh

2020 One Planet Laureate Candidate

Position

Research Officer

Institution

Centre for International Forestry
Research (CIFOR)

Country

Kenya

Education

MSc, Environmental Studies,
Kenyatta University, Kenya

Mentor

Dr. Lalisa Duguma, Scientist-
Sustainable Landscapes and
Integrated Climate Actions,
World Agroforestry (ICRAF)

Area of research

Natural resource governance,
policy and institutional analysis,
collective action, and climate
change adaptation.

When Douglas Bwire Ombogoh got into high school, he was drawn to subjects like geography and environmental studies, which he felt would satisfy his inquisitive mind and direct him to a career in environmental matters. Fortunately for him, this decision was validated soon after high school and before entering college. He met an entrepreneur in ecological and energy conservation and tree planting who spoke to him about opportunities in environmental natural resources.

Born in Busia, western Kenya, and brought up in Nairobi, Douglas holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Studies from Maseno University and an MSc in Environmental Studies from Kenyatta University. He is currently working on natural resource governance in his work position at the Centre for Forestry Research (CIFOR).

This research explores how collective action can enhance sustainable natural resource management practices in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. His work in the montane areas bordering Mau forest, the largest mountain ecosystem in Kenya, and Mount Elgon explores enhancing joint governance of forests and water.

Douglas's involvement with CIFOR, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the University of Kabianga in Kenya,

Lancaster University, and the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom equips him with multidisciplinary research and a unique perspective. His goal is to understand the institutional and governance mechanism needed to allow the communities to invest in land restoration.

In all his research activities, Douglas is interested in exploring the climate change angle, and his passion for community engagement has served him well. He has several publications covering his research.

Douglas attributes mentoring from his supervisor at CIFOR to shaping his research focus. She steered and trusted him with the leadership of projects and encouraged him to define and take charge of his future as a scientist. He was allowed to develop proposals that helped him set high goals.

According to Douglas, ideal career success will involve the leadership of project teams focusing on resolving natural resource challenges faced by African agricultural communities. He says,

"My satisfaction will come from generating guides and tools to support community participation in natural resource management and climate change adaptation and adopting my recommendations in policy-making and strategies."

Ultimately, I aspire to be an authority on community involvement in natural resource governance and climate change mitigation at national, regional, and global levels.

The One Planet Fellowship gives Douglas the confidence to lead and interact with different teams by developing his leadership and interpersonal skills. The Fellowship will facilitate the acquisition of new ideas and exposure to new methodologies and different contexts in the wider African region to tackle issues related to natural resource management.

The challenges he faces as a researcher include convincing multidisciplinary teams of his ideas and having them accepted and discussed since he is still at an early stage of his career. Sometimes has to go through a team member he recognizes as experts to present an idea. Like most scientists, he is aware of developing his skills, which project tasks hinder him constantly. He is also conscious of managing work and personal life to strike the right balance, which has not been easy.

Douglas is working on natural resource governance to explore how collective action can enhance sustainable natural resource management practices in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. "I aspire to be an authority on community involvement in natural resource governance and climate change mitigation at national, regional, and global levels," he says.

Douglas Bwire Ombogoh 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

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