OnePlanet
FELLOWSHIP

Building a robust pipeline of scientists
leading climate change research in Africa

Candidate
Profile

Calvince Ouko Othoo

2021 One Planet Laureate Candidate

Position

Tutorial Fellow

Institution

Cooperative University of Kenya (CUK)

Country

Kenya

Education

MSc, Environmental Monitoring and Analysis, University of Wales, Aberystwyth

Mentor

Dr. Mercy Ojoyi, Programme Officer, African Forest Forum (AFF), Kenya

Research Area

Climate modeling and assessment.

Calvince Ouko Othoo did his undergraduate degree in environmental management at the University of Nairobi and then completed his MSc in environmental monitoring and analysis at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Currently, he is working as a lecturer at the Co-operative University of Kenya while also pursuing his PhD at the University of Nairobi, this time focusing on climate change and adaptation.

"My passion has always been in the area of environmental science and monitoring, so this prompted me to look for a doctorate in this field," he says.

"Climate change is an area of global concern—especially given the revelations from the recent UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment reports. I hope to be an expert in climate analysis by analyzing future climate risks."

Calvince is happy to be involved in such a relevant and timely topic and says his goal is to improve the resilience of vulnerable societies. "I am delighted to be an expert at this time." Even as a high school student, Calvince recalls having a passion for science.

He also enjoyed studying geography and sees a connection between the two.

He has published a few papers trying to assess the impacts of present and future climate change risks on informal urban settlements (slums). "The study is part of a bigger research project based in Kisumu, a mid-sized city in Kenya, a small town in Uganda, and Dakar, a large city in Senegal."

Married with a two-year-old son, Calvince has also been involved in rural projects. "In fact, I work a lot in the field—there are serious problems with rural communities, particularly because of low incomes."

He first heard about the One Planet Fellowship via LinkedIn and decided right away to apply.

He is sure that the program will help him reach his career goals thanks to the opportunities for networking it will provide.

He also plans to continue engaging in research and is eager to advance his research skills to write grant-winning proposals.

Calvince says the One Planet Fellowship will affect his institution "in a big way, definitely. I am already seeing it, and it is exciting."

He says the program will help shape the way he interacts with people and how he influences the community and the society around him.

He says his desired career is in academia and engaging more in research and consultancy. "I'm being flexible in case an opportunity arises—I'm open to a job at any UN organization."

"In terms of challenges, they are part of life, but what I see is a lack of sufficient resources, meaning that ideas often die within you. Even with my PhD I had various ideas to investigate further—inadequate skills in climate studies can be a challenge," he concludes.

Calvince's research centers on climate risk analysis for community adaptation, especially among the vulnerable communities in rural and urban informal settlements.

Calvince Ouko Othoo 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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