

Short Biographies for the UComNetSus Africa consortium members

Consortium lead

Dr. Peter Waweru Wangai

Peter is a Kenyan citizen. Currently he is a lecturer and departmental examinations coordinator at Kenyatta University. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies and Community Development from Kenyatta University and a Master's degree in Sustainable Resources Management from the Technical University of Munich, Germany. His doctoral scholarly work at Kiel University, Germany concentrated on ecosystems management and ecosystem services mapping and assessment. Peter's expertise is on human-environmental systems, ecosystem services mapping/assessment, sustainability and community development with a biased focus on urban and peri-urban ecosystems. Beyond teaching and research, Peter is an academic author, scientific journal reviewer and a consultant. He has previously consulted for UN-ILO, Greenpeace Africa, and Civil Environmental Rights Groups as the Principal Investigator (PI). In the year 2022, Peter is actively involved in six ongoing research projects namely: the UNESCO-Kenyatta University project entitled 'Higher Education Development for Green Economy and Sustainability (HEDGES)' where he is a member of the Technical Working Group; a Consortium Lead in the 'Building Urban Community Networks for [Sustainable Cities in Africa](#) (UComNetSus-Africa)' funded by the Belmont Forum; a PI in the 'Building Capacities of Local Practitioners for the Assessment of the Dynamics of Ecosystems in the Emerging Coastal Towns in the WIO Region' funded by WIOMSA; a co-PI in the 'Connecting agropastoral food culture research to livestock conflicts and commercialisation policy' funded by IDS-UK, a team member in the 'Pan-African network for the arts in environmentally sustainable development', funded by IDS-UK, and a partner researcher in the CRC288 project [A04 on 'Future Conservation'](#), funded by the German Research Council. Peter is a trainer in the annual [Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice](#), and has generated a number of training and informative videos on [African cities](#), [Climate change](#), and [Ecosystem dynamics](#). He is an active member of professional networks such as AlterNet, CIM/PMD, KAAD- Association of Scholars from East Africa (KASEA), National Geographic Society, Society of Conservation Biology, Belmont Forum, Future Earth and GSF-PtP.

Co-Principal Investigators

Dr. Josephine Malonza

Josephine Malonza holds a PhD in Architecture from the University of Nairobi, Kenya. As an architect and urban designer, she is keen on the dialectical relations between architecture and society, especially the quality of life in human settlements. She is the founding Dean of the School of Architecture and the Built Environment, in the University of Rwanda. She is in international research collaborations with the Centre for Sustainable Healthy and Learning Cities (SHLC), UNHabitat and the Global green growth Initiative (GGGI). She was the Vice-

Chair of the Technical Advisory Group supporting the city of Kigali in the revision of the Kigali city Masterplan of 2018-2020.

Dr. Benjamin Bety Champion

Dr. Benjamin Bety Champion is a Senior Lecturer at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana and a fellow at the Africa Centre of Excellence in Coastal Resilience, University of Cape Coast. Benjamin's academic upbringing traverses botany, aquatic ecology, resources management, to climate and vegetation geography. His research interests are on community-water relationships: coping strategies and customs and conflicts related to the variations and alternative uses of water; community environmental decision-making processes; water resources and poverty alleviation; water resources and climate change; ecological and cultural sustainability of urban environments.

Dr. Margaret A. Onuor

Margaret holds a PhD in marine and coastal ecology and a full-time lecturer at a lecturer at the South Eastern Kenya University. She also holds an Assistant Professor position, Integrative Biodiversity Conservation Science at the Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern Switzerland. Margaret has been working with the Mombasa coastal communities living around Mida Creek on Mapping and Valuation of ecosystem services from mangrove forests as socio-ecological systems. She also conducted participatory research on ecosystem services mapping at the coastal region, Kenya. She has implemented several project in the study area with the support of the National Geographic and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA).

Dr. Olufemi Taiwo

Olúfẹ́mi O. Táíwò is an assistant professor of philosophy at Georgetown University. His theoretical work draws liberally from the Black radical tradition, anti-colonial thought, German transcendental philosophy, contemporary philosophy of language, contemporary social science, and histories of activism and activist thinkers. He is currently writing a book entitled *Reconsidering Reparations* that offers a novel philosophical argument for reparations and explores links with environmental justice. He also engages in public philosophy, including articles exploring intersections of climate justice and colonialism. This year, Dr. Taiwo published two new books entitled “*Reconsidering Reparations*”, and “*Elite Capture: How the Powerful Took Over Identity Politics (And Everything Else)*”

Mr. Olusola Adeoye

Olusola Adeoye holds a Master's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies from University of Ibadan Nigeria. He is the Head of *Redesigning Lagos Lagoon Project* with Nature Cares Resource Centre,

Lagos Nigeria. The multi-stakeholders and multi-sites project take a participatory historical perspective to assess socio-ecological changes and decline of vital wetland resources. Prior to this Project, he was part of a team of transdisciplinary researchers funded by DAAD to examine problems of urban water supply in developing countries. As a bilingual environmental social scientist, Olusola's expertise in environmental conflicts, policy analysis, process design and facilitation of participatory engagement processes qualifies as a competent partner for this project.

Mr. Shabani Soah

Shabani Soah holds a Master's degree in Biodiversity from the University of Dar es salaam, Tanzania. He has worked to save community forests, Changing Lives project, managed by the Royal Botanical Garden Edinburgh (RBGE), World Wide Fund - Tanzania Office and Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology, and Darwin –Defra funded project on community-based forest management in the Tanzanian coastal forests with Mpingo Conservation Initiatives (MCDI), COSTECH, WWF -Tanzania, UNEP-WCMC.

Dr. David Muchangi Mugo

David Muchangi Mugo, a PhD holder in Computer Science. He is currently a lecturer at the University of Embu, Kenya. Administratively, David is the Chairman, Department of Mathematics, Computing and Information Technology (MCIT) and the coordinator, Website and Electronic Repository at the University. He is a Knowledge Management Consultant, a certified IBM Big Data Engineer, certified IBM Cloud Developer and also an IBM certified Artificial Intelligence Analyst. David, has published in refereed journals and has reviewed scientific papers for various journals.