



UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
(CoSS)

# International Symposium on African Voices on Conservation in Africa



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Meeting



Meeting ID: 868 5626 6820  
Passcode: 464306

## Theme

**Reclaiming Narratives, Agency, and Resources  
in African Environmental Stewardship**

## PROGRAMME



**Dates:**

26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2026



**Host:**

Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Campus,  
University of Dar es Salaam

**DAY 1: THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026****Official Opening****Venue: Old Council Chamber**

08:00-09:00	Arrival and Registration	All participants
9:00-09:15	Welcoming remarks	Prof. Nelson Boniface Deputy Vice Chancellor - Research
09:15-09:20	Introduction of Keynote Speaker	Dr Nestory Yamungu (Head of Department of Geography)
09:20-10:10	<b>Keynote address</b> Future Africa Research Chair in Sustainability Transformations	Prof. Maano Ramutsindela, University of Pretoria- University of Cape Town
10:10 – 10:30	Discussion	All
10:30-10:55	Health Break	

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## Parallel Sessions

### Panel 1-A: Conservation and Tourism

Chair: Emmanuel Sulle

Venue: CoSS Boardroom

#### **The Blessings of Kilimanjaro: Perspectives of Tanzanian mountain crews**

11:00-11:15

*Kokel Melubo, College of African Wildlife Management, Mweka, Tanzania*

*Leslie Hadfield, Brigham Young University, Provo, USA*

*Festo Mkenda, Roman archives of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits), Rome, Italy*

#### **Mapping Wildlife Diplomacy between Tanzania and Kenya: Prospects and Challenges, 1950s-2024**

11:15-11:30

*James B. Kuboja, James Zotto and Rabia Kurunge, Department of History, University of Dar es Salaam*

#### **The Trophy that Never Fed the Village: Unmasking the Myth of Community Benefits in Trophy Hunting**

11:30-11:45

*Ritha Kalokola, Institute of Resource Assessment, University of Dar es Salaam*

#### **Evolution of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism in the Socio-Economic Transformations in Uganda**

12:45-12:00

*Joseph S. Ssalongo, Umoja Wildlife Conservancies of Uganda*

11:45-13:00

Discussion

**Panel 1-B: Conservation Landscapes, People and Livelihood**

**Chair: Maria E.S. Mngulwi**

**Venue: Old Council Chamber**

11:00-11:15 **Contested Landscapes: Land, Livelihoods, and Conservation in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, ca. 1950s-2000s.**

*Maxmillian J. Chuhila and Thobias Eginah,  
Department of History, University of Dar es Salaam*

11:15-12:30 **Contested Landscapes: Narratives of Territorialization in Transfrontier Conservation Parks in Southern Africa**

*Lameck Kachena, University of Cape Town, South Africa*

11:30-12:45 **African Environmentalism: How Financialization Cripples People Science of Soil and Water in Africa**

*Christine Noe, Department of Geography,  
University of Dar es Salaam*

*Ng'winamila Kasongi, Department of Geography,  
University of Dodoma*

12:45-12:00 **People, Policies and Politics of Conservation in the East African Community**

*Alice Nyawira Karuri, Strathmore University*

12:00-13:00 Discussion

**Panel 1-C: Voices from Pastoral rangelands**

**Chair: Bernard Baha**

**Venue: Geography Room 305**

11:00-11:15 **Whose Land, Whose Future? Maasai's Livelihood Security and the Conservation-Climate Nexus in Ngorongoro**  
*Richard Mbunda, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, University of Dar es Salaam*

11:15-11:30 **Reclaiming Dupotoe Ramat: Indigenous Sovereignty and the Political Ecology of the Maasailand**  
*Saruni Kisiaya, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Dar es Salaam*

11:30-11:45 **From Coexistence to Conflict: Militarized Conservation, Maasai Displacement, and the Crisis of Multiple Land Use in Ngorongoro**  
*Ronald Ndesanjo, James Kuboja, Jakob Sululu, University of Dar es Salaam*

11:45-12:00 **Seeing Like a Satellite, Knowing like a Pastoralist: Co-Producing Rangeland Health Assessments in Tanzania's Wildlife Management Areas**  
*Esmée Mulder, University of Colorado Boulder*

12:00-13:00 Discussion

**13:00-14:00**

**Lunch Break**

## Parallel Sessions

### Panel 2-A: Decolonizing African Conservation knowledge – 1

Chair: Baruani Mshale

Venue: Old Council Chamber

14:00-14:15 **Indigenous Eco-politics: From Decolonising to Liberating Conservation in Africa**  
*Emmanuel Sulle, Climate and Environmental Research Center, Aga Khan University in Tanzania*

14:15-14:30 **Transformational Changes in Biodiversity Conservation**  
*Mathew Mabele and Wilhelm Kiwango, University of Dodoma, Tanzania*  
*Ida Djenontin, Gasto – Lyakurwa, Mercy Chepkwony, Penn State University, USA*  
*Ariadne Collins, University of St. Andrews, Scotland*  
*Aby Harper, Clemson University, USA*  
*June Rubis, Building Indigenous Initiatives in Heritage and Macquarie University, Australia*  
*Laila Sandroni, University of Brasilia, Brazil*

14:30-14:45 **Is the operation of the Citizen Science Initiatives in Forest Conservation and Local Community leading to Empowerment?**  
*Michael Rikanga<sup>1</sup>, Suma Kibonde<sup>1</sup>, Victoria Makulilo, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania*  
*Ida Theilade, University of Copenhagen, Denmark*

**Unpacking Green Developmentalism: A Critical Examination of REDD+ and Clean Cooking Initiatives in Ghana, Tanzania, and Zambia**

14:45-15:00 *Omary Thabiti, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania*  
*Godfred Obeng, University of Jyväskylä, Finland*  
*Matildah Kaliba, Department of development Studies, University of Zambia*

15:00-16:00 Discussion

**Panel 2-B: Technology and Conservation Financing**  
**Chair: Benezet Rwelengera**  
**Venue: CoSS Boardroom**

**Forms and Sources of Structural Bias in African Conservation Science**

14:00-14:15 *Dan Brockington, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain*

**Digital Citizen Science, Data Justice and the Potential for A Decolonial Tropical Landscape Monitoring**

*Michael Rikanga, University of Dar es Salaam*

**Integrative Conservation and Management Approaches in Wetlands support the mutual health and survival of amphibians and aquatic insects.**

14:15-14:30 *Anthony Karani, Andrew Gichira, Centre for Ecosystem Restoration, Kenya,*  
*Patrick Malonza, National Museums of Kenya*  
*Anne Kairu, Michael Githaiga, University of Embu, Kenya*

**Seeing Like a Satellite, Knowing like a Pastoralist: Co-Producing Rangeland Health Assessments in Tanzania's Wildlife Management Areas**

14:30-14:45 *Esmée Mulder, University of Colorado Boulder*

14:45-15:00 Discussion

15:00-16:00 Discussion

**Panel 2-C: African ‘People Science’ – 1****Chair: Maxmillian J. Chuhila****Venue: Geography Room 305****Citizen Science Beyond Data Production: Insights on How Citizens Use Their Own Data for Forest Governance in Tanzania**

14:00-14:15

*Daudi Edward Daudi, Suma Kibonde, Victoria Makulilo, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania*

*Mikkel Funder, Danish Institute for International Studies, Denmark*

**Ritual uses and Sustainable Practices: Sacred Forests as Living Science of Conservation in the Grassfields of Cameroon**

14:15-14:30

*Lucie Mbogni Nankeng, Cultural History and International Relations, University of Dschang, Cameroon*

**Indigenous Marine Knowledges in the Ocean Anthropocene: Towards Epistemic Justice in African Coastal Futures**

14:30-14:45

*Saruni Kisiaya, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Dar es Salaam*

**Situating Local Knowledge in the Climate Crisis: Exploring organic cocoa farming in Ghana**

14:45-15:00

*Godfrey Adduow Obeng, University of Jyvaskyula, Finland*

15:00-16:00

Discussion

**DAY 2: FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026**

**08:00-09:00**      **Plenary: Conserving Academic Freedom in Africa**  
**Moderator: Muhidin Shangwe**  
**Old Council Chamber**

**09:00-10:30**      **Plenary: Conservation and Pastoral Lands**  
**Moderator: Christine Noe**  
**Venue: Old Council Chamber**

**09:00-09:10**      **Ujamaa Community Resource: Amplifying Pastoral voices in conservation landscapes**  
*Makko Paine, Ujamaa Community Resource Team (UCRT), Arusha, Tanzania*

**09:10-09:20**      **Land Right, Livestock, and Living as Ancestors: The Foundation of African Environmental Futures**  
*Saitoti Parmelo – Pastoralist and Indigenous NGOs Forum (PINGOs) and Indigenous Centre for Innovative Research Alliances (ICIRA)*

**09:20-09:30**      **Held in Reserve, Continuing in Care: Maasai Reserves of Renewal and Conservation Justice Struggles**  
*Jim Igoe, Department of Anthropology, University of Virginia, USA*

**09:30-10:30**      Discussion

**10:30-11:00**      **Tea Break**

## Parallel Sessions

### Panel 3-A: Restoring People-Land Relations

Chair: Nestory Yamungu

Venue: Geography Room 305

#### **Silencing Indigenous Voices in the Farming and Conservation of the Angar-Didessa Valley, Western Ethiopia (1975-2018)**

11:00-11:15 *Dereje Hinew Dehu (PhD), Associate Professor of History*  
*Wollega University, College of Social Sciences and Humanities*

#### **Active Resource Use, the Key to Restoring African Tree Systems**

11:15-11:30 *Coert J. Geldenhuys, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Pretoria, South Africa*

#### **Macrofauna-environment interactions and their potential in restoring degraded landscapes in the context of Sub-Saharan Africa: A review of current knowledge**

11:30-11:45 *Mukanzala Kasimbo, Todd Johnson, Agnes Uwimbabazi, Copperbelt University, Zambia*  
*Stephen Syampungani, University of Pretoria, South Africa*  
*Theodore M. Mwamba University of Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo/ Copperbelt University, Zambia*

#### **Politics of Environmental Conservation in South-western Nigeria, 1960-2019**

11:45-12:00 *Kamil Adeyemi Hamzah, Emmanuel Alayande*  
*University of Education, Nigeria*

12:00-13:00 Discussion

## Parallel Sessions

### Panel 3-B: Conservation, community and conflict

Chair: Ritha Kalokola

Venue: Old Council Chamber

#### Does Participation Matter? Examining What Drives Community Participation in Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)

11:00-11:15

*Maria E.S. Mngulwi, Department of Tourism and Recreation, Sokoine University of Agriculture*

*Gerald Eilu and Jim Ayorekire, Department of Forestry, Biodiversity and Tourism, Makerere University*

#### Limitations of Community-Driven Wildlife Conservation for Conflict Prevention at Loliondo GCA, Tanzania

11:15-11:30

*Ruth John, Open University of Tanzania*

#### Conservation at a Crossroads: Balancing Global Environmental Agendas with Local Rights in Nigeria

11:30-11:45

*Aminulahi Ashiru, University of Ibadan, Nigeria*

*Kamil Adeyemi Hamzah, Emmanuel Alayande University of Education, Nigeria*

#### Fortress Conservation and the Adjacent Communities' Coping Strategies in the South Western Serengeti

11:45-12:00

*James Kuboja, Department of History, University of Dar es Salaam*

12:00-13:00

Discussion

**Panel 3-C: Conservation Data Justice****Chair: Ronald Ndesanjo****Venue: CoSS BOARDROOM****Harnessing Natural Resources and Institutional Quality for Sustainable Financial Development in East Africa: Insights from Geographic, Macroeconomic, and ICT Factors**

11:00-11:15

*Getachew K. Hailu, Department of Economics, Jimma University, Woldia University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**Wondaferahu M. Demissie, Department of Economics, Ethiopian Civil Service University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**Etana A. Fekede, Department of Economics, Adama Science and Technology University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia***African Cultural Practices and Environmental Management in Democratic Nigeria**

11:15-11:30

*Muideen, Akanni, University of Ibadan, Nigeria**Muideen, Akanni, University of Ibadan, Nigeria***Deconstructing Digital Divides: Ensuring Equitable Access and Empowering Marginalized Voices in African Forest Governance**

11:30-11:45

*Bernard Nyamandege, University of Dodoma, Tanzania**Hilda Mwakangala<sup>1</sup>, Iben Nathan, University of Copenhagen, Denmark***From Rhetoric to Reality: Forging a Sovereign and Inclusive Conservation Agenda for Africa**

11:45- 12:00

*Olusola O. Ogunjinmi and Adenike M. Durojaiye,**Emmanuel Alayande University of Education, Nigeria***Digital citizen science, data justice and the potential for a decolonial tropical landscape monitoring**

12:00-12:15

*Daniel Sifael, University of Dodoma*

12:15-13:15 Discussion

**13:00-14:00****Lunch Break**

## Parallel Sessions

### Panel 4: Decolonizing African Conservation knowledge – 2

Chair: Dan Brockington

Venue: CoSS Boardroom

#### **The Coloniality of Forestry: Decolonial Possibilities and African Environmental Ethics**

14:00-14:15

*Mathew Bhuki Mabele, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Dodoma, Tanzania*

*Danstan Mukono, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania*

#### **Decolonizing Drought and Conservation Monitoring: An African-Led Stewardship App for Tanzania's Drylands**

14:15-14:30

*Upendo Lyimo, Institute of Resource Assessment, University of Dar es Salaam*

#### **Reclaiming the African Voice in Conservation through Afro-Positive Tourism: Experiences from Uganda**

14:30-14:45

*Ayorekire Jim, Obua Joseph, Mugizi Francis and Byaruhanga, Bruce Michael, Department of Tourism, Makerere University, Uganda*

**Renaturalising Socio-nature Coexistence: A  
Decolonial Political Ecology of Forest Conservation  
and Pastoralism in Tanzania**

*Edith Benedict, Benezet Rwelengera, Sokoine  
University of Agriculture/University of Dar es Salaam/  
University of Copenhagen*

14:45-15:00

*Raymond Okick, Sokoine University of Agriculture,  
University of Copenhagen*

*Thorsten Treue, Jens Lund, Henrik Meilby, University  
of Copenhagen*

*Parit Saruni, Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy*

*Jumanne Abdallah, Rose Kicheleri Romanus  
Ishengoma, Sokoine University Agriculture*

15:00-16:00

Panel Discussion

16:00-17:30

**Roundtable Discussion: Way Forward and  
Publication Plans**

Maano Ramutsindela, University of Pretoria/  
University of Cape Town

Mathew Bhuki Mabele, University of Dodoma

Emmanuel Sulle, Aga Khan University in Tanzania

Muhidin Shangwe, University of Dar es Salaam

**Moderator: Christine Noe**



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