

Gathu Kirubi
CURRICULUM VITAE

Summary

Kirubi is currently a Lecturer at the Environmental Sciences Department, Kenyatta University where he teaches courses on energy, technology, and sustainable development. Kirubi earned his PhD from the Energy & Resources Group at the University of California Berkeley in 2009. His doctoral research highlighted the potential of community-based electric micro-grids as an alternative, largely unexplored, way to accelerate rural electrification in Africa. Prior to joining UC Berkeley in 2004, Kirubi spent five years working in energy, microfinance and rural development in East Africa. He was also the lead author of a US\$1M project –“Market Transformation for Highly Efficient Biomass Stoves for Institutions and Medium-Scale Enterprises in Kenya” – funded by UNDP/Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by RETAP. He has also consulted widely on energy and microfinance with a number of organizations including SunTransfer, UNDP, Arc Finance, E+Co, Faulu-Kenya, and ESD (UK). Kirubi is the winner of several academic and professional awards including the e8 Sustainable Energy Development Scholarship (2004) and the Ashden Award (UK) for Renewable Energy (2001). Kirubi holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Environmental Science degrees (Kenyatta University) and a Master of Science degree from the Energy and Resources Group, University of California, Berkeley.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- **Current** – Lecturer, Environmental Sciences Department,
 - *Teaches courses related to Energy & the Environment, Climate Change, Technology & Development,*

CONSULTANCY EXPERIENCE

Date: April 2009- 2011

Client: Norwegian Research Council & University of Oslo.

Activity: One of the lead consultants in a **US\$0.4 million** village-scale solar PV-technology transfer initiative between India & Kenya. In addition to playing a central in project design, I am part of the team responsible for networking with relevant government agencies such as the Ministry of Energy, the Rural Electrification Agency and other stakeholders in Kenya.

Date: Feb-December 2008

Client: UNDP/Sustainable Energy Programme (New York).

Activity: a) Analyzed case studies and policies related to small-scale energy finance for the poor in Kenya; b) Compiled a synthesis report on Small-scale finance for Energy in four countries (Kenya, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, & Nepal).

Date: July- August 2008

Clients: E&Co, Arc Finance, & Faulu Kenya.

Activity: In addition to analysis of the energy expenditure patterns for households and micro-enterprises supported by Faulu-Kenya, my research work informed the design of an Energy-lending Program for Faulu.

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Date: 2001 -2002

Client: ESD (UK) & Department of International Development (UK).

Activity: Fuel Substitution - I was part of a team that assessed the livelihood related impacts of fuel substitution on biomass stove producers and fuel suppliers in Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia.

EDUCATION

- **PhD in Energy & Resources (2009)**, Energy and Resources Group, UC Berkeley
 - The main contribution of my doctoral research is demonstrating under what circumstances –socio-economic, types of technical and regulatory support – off-grid village-scale electric systems can increase access to electricity contribute to rural development in sub-Sahara Africa. These are issues of great interest to African governments and many development partners in the region.
 - In 2009, a piece of my PhD results was published in one of the top refereed journals in my field: ***World Development***.
- **Master of Science (2006)**, Energy and Resource Group, UC Berkeley.
- **Bachelor of Science (1995)** Kenyatta University, Kenya
 - Majors: *Renewable Energy, Appropriate Technology*.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Kirubi, C., et al. (2009). “Community-Based Electric Micro-Grids Can Contribute to Rural Development: Evidence from Kenya; *World Development*, 37 (7): 1208–1221.
- Kirubi, C., and Kammen, D.M. (2008). “Energy: Electrification” In: *New Encyclopaedia of Africa*. Middleton, J. and Miller, J.C (Eds). Volume 2, pages 266-271, Detroit: Charles Scribner's Sons.
- Kammen, D.M. and Kirubi, C. (2008). “Poverty, Energy, and Resource Use in Developing Countries: Focus on Africa.” *Annual New York Academy of Sciences*, 1136: 348-357.
- Kirubi, C., (2006). “Energy for sustainable development in Africa” In: *Environment and Sustainable Development. A guide for tertiary education in Kenya*. Waswa, F., Otor, S., and Mugendi, D., (eds), Kenyatta University, Nairobi. Volume 1, pp 32-52.

MEMBERSHIP & AFFILIATIONS

- **Member** of the Technical Committee reviewing & developing the National Energy Policy for the Ministry of Energy, Kenya Government -2003/04
- **Education Advisor** to The Asante Education Foundation - non-profit in San Francisco supporting education-related projects in East Africa (***voluntary***).

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