

Prof. Onywere, Simon Mang'erere (PhD)

SUMMARY PROFILE

Simon M. Onywere is Associate Professor of Environmental Planning and Management and was Deputy Director, Research Capacity Building and Dissemination at the Institute of Research, Science and Technology, Kenyatta University from 20th Sept 2011 – 2nd April 2014. He Lecturers in the Department of Environmental Planning and Management, School of Environmental Studies, at Kenyatta University. Before Joining Kenyatta University in 2001, he was the Head of the Department of Geography, Egerton University, Njoro, Kenya (1998-2001). He made his PhD in 1997 in Structural/Remote Sensing Geology from the University of Nairobi with postgraduate research support from Universities Science Humanities and Engineering Partnerships in Africa (USHEPiA) to the University of Cape Town at the Centre for Interactive Graphical Computing where he partly worked on the Godwana GIS Database.

He is since June 2012, the Kenyatta University Champion in the Programme on Development Research Uptake in Sub-Saharan Africa (DRUSSA); a Twenty-four African universities partnership and collaboration between Centre for Research on Evaluation, Science and Technology (CREST), the Association for Commonwealth Universities (ACU) and Organization Systems Design (OSD) and funded by DFID, United Kingdom. He has been involved and champions research management and quality in higher education and organizational management.

His concern on Integrated Watershed/Environmental Management Planning saw him participate and train communities in water resources and catchment management with 7 participatory catchment management plans to his credit. He was worked on Community Based Disaster Risk Management and led a team from Kenyatta University in Risk, Hazard, and Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment/Mapping in Support of Disaster Risk Reduction in all 8 Provinces of Kenya for the then Ministry of State for Special Programmes. Recently he was involved in comprehensive mapping of the Geospatial Extent of 2011-2013 Flooding of the Eastern African Rift Valley Lakes in Kenya and its Implication on the Ecosystems with a focus on lakes Naivasha, Nakuru Bogoria and Baringo.

Prof. Onywere is a Member of Kenya's National Platform on Disaster Risk Management. He is (since April 2010) the National Chairman of the Kenya DAAD Scholars Association (KDSA). His Memberships to regional networks include: the Geological Society of Kenya (GSK); the Regional Eastern Africa DIES Alumni Networking (REAL) on Quality in Higher Education; Water Capacity Building Network (WaterCap); and the UN University Network for Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa (UNeDRA).

His research interest is on development of Kenyan Environmental Database of Earth Science Data and Remote Sensing Applications. He has widely researched and published on the subject and in applications for integrated environmental/watershed management and disaster risk management. His concern on the expansion of the use of Geospatial knowledge for teaching and research saw him Spearhead the Establishment of Linkage between Kenyatta University and ESRI Eastern Africa under the 100 African Universities programme that lead to award of ESRI ArcGIS Enterprise license to Kenyatta University.



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