



Trip Report: Natural Capital and Poverty Reduction

Uganda/Malawi: June 1 – 11, 2008

Travelers: Gerald Shively, Purdue University

Objectives:

- (1) In Uganda, meet with collaborators/co-PIs (Dick Sserunkuuma, Makerere University; Arild Angelsen, CIFOR and UMB; Pam Jagger, Indiana University) to discuss project, conduct research training workshop at Makerere University and launch field work activities and data collection in conjunction with UMB's NOMA project.
- (2) In Malawi, meet with co-PI (Charles Jumbe, University of Malawi) and project partners, graduate students and potential local collaborators to discuss project and plan activities.

Chronological summary of activities, by country

Uganda

June 1 Traveled to Uganda from Oslo, having spent the previous week conducting a Ph.D. short course at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB). Arrived in Entebbe in the late evening and transferred by taxi to the Hotel Africana in Kampala. The original plan had been to stay at Makerere University's guest house (on campus), but we learned at the last minute that it was unavailable. The Hotel Africana was one of the few hotels in Kampala with rooms available, owing to a large AIDS conference taking place concurrent with the trip. Generally speaking, the Hotel Africana seems like a poor value for the price and is not conveniently located for intensive work at Makerere as it necessitates long taxi commutes each day. Internet access was reliable but relatively expensive (approx. 5 USD/hour).

June 2 Began a week-long research training workshop at the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness at Makerere University. The activity had been designed to dovetail with the NORAD-funded NOMA project. The AMA BASIS CRSP project is working in parallel with the NOMA project (which is directed by BASIS co-PIs Arild Angelsen and Dick Sserunkuuma). This collaboration provides considerable administrative, financial, logistical, and research synergy. The NOMA project is designed around a two-year M.Sc. in Development and Natural Resource Economics, with courses and data collection in a host country (Uganda) followed by courses and thesis write-up in Norway. The NOMA project includes 16 students studying topics of direct relevance to the BASIS project. The demographic mix of NOMA students/participants is:

	Ugandan	Malawian	Ethiopian	Norwegian	Total
Males	4	2	4	0	10
Females	3	0	2	1	6

Day 1 introductory remarks were provided by Dr. Dick Sserunkuuma (host and BASIS project co-PI). Additional remarks were provided by Dr. Navastia (Department of Statistics), Dr. Bernard Bashasha (Head of Department of Agricultural Economics) and Dr. Masaka Kiuji (a visiting lecturer/scholar from Japan – institution?). Dr. Moses Buyinza (Faculty of Forestry) joined the group and led a lively and spirited discussion of the poverty-environment nexus in Uganda. He articulated a long list of environmental problems in Uganda including exponential population growth, biodiversity loss and habitat destruction, food shortages, soil erosion, poor agricultural practices, pollution of land water and air, overgrazing, bush burning, deforestation, wetland degradation, and poor urban waste management. Dr. Buyinza has served as a member of an advisory group to the National Forestry Authority of Uganda and has a very broad and detailed understanding of the policy landscape as well as an active research program. We spent some time discussing the most pressing concerns in Masaka and Masindi districts (areas targeted for data collection), including the range of on-farm and off-farm activities and institutional arrangements in the districts.

The afternoon was devoted to detailed review of the concept notes students had previously prepared. I had reviewed these prior to arrival and provided written comments for each student. We launched into a formal presentation of workshop training materials on research design, hypothesis development and testing, different fieldwork approaches and methods for gathering information.

June 3 The morning of day 2 of the workshop focused on a review of the core questionnaire used in the previous (2005) round of the NOMA survey. This questionnaire serves as the foundation for the 2008 round of data collection. The group divided into four groups based on thematic similarities (forests, social networks, income growth, and institutions). The groups worked intensively to critique each others' research questions, develop testable hypotheses (and relevant statistical tests) and then to locate variables in the core questionnaires that would be relevant for each person's research hypotheses/questions, identifying any important gaps in the questionnaire. In parallel, a charcoal team was formed to refine research questions and two questionnaires for the AMA BASIS charcoal study (one study will focus on the market chain for charcoal and another will focus on household surveys in charcoal producing villages). The afternoon included a presentation by Pam Jagger (based on her Ph.D. research) on governance reform in Uganda's forest sector. Pam is currently serving as a consultant to the AMA BASIS project and has extensive experience in Uganda.

June 4 On day 3, according to plan, survey enumerators (for the impending field surveys) joined the group. Based on prior agreement and arrangement with the Institutional Review Board at Purdue University, Shively conducted a Powerpoint-based CITI

training on the Use of Human Subjects in Research. Materials for the training were drawn from the CITI on-line course and—as in the on-line version—following the modules a short quiz was administered. In addition to NOMA students and the Ugandan enumerators, several key Makerere staff joined the training. The training exceeded my expectations and sparked a very productive and thoughtful discussion regarding conduct in the field and ethical conduct of research. Certificates of completion were provided for those who completed the training. The profile of participants was as follows:

	Males	Females	Total
CITI Training	19	14	33

June 5 Day 4 was spent intensively working on questionnaires and preparing for field work. Had dinner with Todd Benson (IFPRI) who is doing interesting work on net buyer/net seller status and the welfare impacts of agricultural price changes in Uganda.

June 6 Day 5 was spent intensively working on questionnaires and preparing for field work. The charcoal survey instruments were finalized and refined through the use of one-on-one mock interviews between enumerators. After much deliberation the charcoal team decided to pre-test the market survey in Entebbe, reserving Kampala to be used as the urban termination point for the actual value-chain survey.

Miscellaneous Uganda notes:

- Although prior to departure I had attempted to set up a meeting with USAID staff in Kampala it was not possible to arrange a meeting with mission staff.
- The current plan for a second Uganda study is to learn something about migrant timber cutters (individuals who are hired in groups and transported to forest areas (Kabale and Chama?) by large firms). Based on information from Pam and some of the enumerators these cutters return to their home villages (Munteme and Busera?) in August, which would be the best time for a survey. However, one complication is that we are likely to exhaust our year 1 Uganda fieldwork budget before August and the year 2 budget won't become available until October. Need to look at ways to bridge fund.

Malawi

June 7 Departed Kampala at 3am for Entebbe to catch a 5:30 connection to Lilongwe via Nairobi. Arrived in Lilongwe around 9am and was met by a driver and student from Bunda College. After a few stops in Lilongwe we transferred to Bunda College (approx 1 hour from the airport) and picked up a key for my room at the

Forestry guest house. Unfortunately, the guest house room was poorly set up (no soap, no towels, no food on the premises) so I shifted to the Agricultural Policy Analysis Training Unit (APATU) guest house which is a much better option for visitors as it is better maintained and prepared for guests and has the added advantage of food on the premises. The manager (Margaret) was very helpful and welcoming. I spent much of the afternoon grading Ph.D. qualifying exams from Purdue. Around 5pm I was visited by my co-PI Charles Jumbe who provided me with access to an office at the Center for Agricultural Research and Development. Unfortunately, two days prior to my arrival a pack of hyenas had come out of the forest and attacked (and tragically killed) two villagers near campus. As a result everyone had been advised to stay indoors between dusk and dawn. I used this informal curfew as an excuse to spend my evening in the common room watching European football.

June 8 Sunday spent working at CARD, catching up with my email backlog and touring campus.

June 9 Began two days of meetings on the University of Malawi campus. Among those I met were Prof. George Kanyama Phiri (Principal), Prof. Abdi Edriss (Head-Agricultural and Applied Economics Bunda College), Dr. Charles Masangano (Dean-Development Studies); Prof. Moses Kwapata (Dean-Environmental Sciences); Dr. Kenneth A. Wiyo (Director of CARD); Mr. Thabbie Chilongo (CARD Research Fellow and PEN Fieldwork Coordinator); Dr. Weston Mwase (Head-Forestry and Fisheries); Mr. Stephen Makungwa (Senior Lecturer-Forestry Department and PEN Fieldwork Coordinator).

June 10 In the morning Charles and I went to Lilongwe to meet with the Director of the Department of Forestry Dr. Dennis Kayambazinthu. It was a real pleasure to meet with Dennis and discuss connections between forests, agriculture and poverty. We spent a considerable amount of time talking about potential research topics and I suspect he will be a key advisor to the project in Malawi. Our main conversation centered on the interplay between forests and agriculture, in particular the role of maize and tobacco expansion in forest loss.

In the afternoon I met with Christopher Chilomba, who will be starting his M.S. program at Purdue in Agricultural Economics this fall. His training will be supported in full by the AMA BASIS project. We spent considerable time discussing graduate school in the US, what to expect, timing of activities, etc. I also met with George Kanthiti (economics graduate) and Elyvin Nkhonjera (NRM graduate). Both want to apply for the remaining BASIS M.S. slot at Purdue. The end of the day was spent with Dr. Jumbe, visiting the outlying Bunda College campus including the experimental farms and aquaculture facilities.

June 11 Early morning flight from Lilongwe to the U.S. via Lusaka, Nairobi and Amsterdam.

Miscellaneous Malawi notes:

- Although prior to departure I had attempted to set up a meeting with USAID staff in Lilongwe it was not possible to arrange a meeting with mission staff as most of the relevant personnel seemed to be on travel.

Two trip photos included.



AMA BASIS CRSP Project: Natural Capital and Poverty Reduction
Research training workshop, Makerere University (Uganda) June 2008
Photo credit: Gerald Shively, Purdue University



AMA BASIS CRSP Project: Natural Capital and Poverty Reduction
Fuelwood transporters outside Lilongwe (Malawi) June 2008

Photo credit: Gerald Shively, Purdue University

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