



Writing for publication, fundraising and communicating results

Workshop Report

**The Tropical Biology Association and Makerere University
Specialist Training Workshop
Kampala, 8th – 11th August**

European Commission (B7-6200/01/0370/ENV)



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The Tropical Biology Association – Makerere University specialist training workshop

Introduction

The general aim of the TBA Specialist Training Programme (STP) is to build institutional capacity by training trainers who can effectively carry on training, in-house or otherwise at their institution. Consequently, priority areas of training are identified as to match institutional needs. The programme goes beyond individual level capacity building, of the TBA courses, to include other areas of skills development. Rather than compete for limited places on the TBA courses every year, institutions gain far more by, and have a chance to directly invest in enhancing the capability of their trainers and this makes the STP approach more sustainable, and the multiplier effect, as new skills are transferred between generations within participating institutions, is enormous.

The TBA-MU Specialist training was the third in a series of STP workshops the TBA has ran since 2004. It was organised together with Makerere University through the Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation and hosted by the Department of Forest Biology and Ecosystem Management, from 8th to 11th August 2006. The workshop was funded through a grant from the European Union (B7-6200/01/0370/ENV).

The workshop trained field research and conservation scientists and park ecologists working for government, NGOs, academic, conservation and research institutions in Uganda. Priority was given to individuals holding responsible positions whose duties include dissemination of scientific results and information as well as those actively involved in training, research and management of natural resources.

Aim and structure of the workshop

The theme of the workshop was '*writing for publication, fundraising and communicating result*'. Specifically, the workshop

- taught practical skills in developing scientific papers and grant proposals with the aim of boosting participants' publication and fundraising records
- shared lessons and skills on effective communication necessary for enhancing trainees' presentation capabilities
- trained in skills in preparing good curriculum vitae and statements of achievement as to help the trainees market themselves effectively
- Contributed to building institutional capacity as the trainees transfer their new skills, afterwards
- Provided a forum for making contacts and catalysing links between researchers and biologists.

These aims were achieved through intensive teaching integrated with practical exercises, group discussions, presentations, and several feedback sessions. Two visiting speakers complemented the teaching through targeted talks on fundraising for, and case studies, of research and conservation initiatives in Uganda. Eight participants gave talks on their own work as part of the module on communication skills.

The trainer-participant interaction was particularly good and the trainees contributed freely in discussions and remained engaged throughout the duration of the workshop. It is hoped that the trainees will go on to share their new skills with colleagues at their institution or work station.

Demand, achievement and output

50 individuals, from 23 institutions competed for the 19 workshop places; 46 Ugandans, 2 Rwandese, a Kenyan and a Tanzanian. 78% and 22% of the applicants were males and females, respectively. Masters and Bachelors degree holders constituted 50% and 38% of the applicants, respectively. Only 2 PhD and 4 Diploma/certificate holders applied for the training.

Selected participants comprised 7 females and 12 males, representing 11 institutions in Uganda. Makerere University sent the highest number of trainees (9 persons) but from 6 different departments, units and projects. Academically, the participants had bachelors (37%) and Masters (63%) level of education.

One Rwandese and a Ugandan were offered places but could not attend and were replaced from the reserve list.

Participants' feedback showed they rated the workshop as either excellent (71%) or good (29%). All participants noted that they are 'very likely' to apply their news skill in their forthcoming work. 88% and 12% felt that the workshop would be very useful or useful to other colleagues at their institution, respectively. All participants felt that the workshop was well organised and provided about the right balance between talks and practicals/discussions.

All participants received a complete booklet of TBA STP training guide with materials on most aspects of the workshop. Participants' feedback on 'what makes a good presentation' were collated and will be incorporated in a new chapter on communication skills to be added to the training guide. Discussions at the workshop also came up with a lot of valuable information that will be useful in developing the training guide further.

Participants were issued with Certificates of Participation from the Tropical Biology Association and the Makerere University. In addition, they each received a copy of the Journal of East Africa Natural History donated by Nature Kenya through the TBA follow up support programme.

Conclusion

The workshop achieved a lot especially in re-energising the participants and encouraging them to engage more actively in scientific writing. Demand for the training is clearly there and those who did not make it felt left out. Availability of the training guide made teaching much easier and provided consolidated reference material for the trainees. It is recommended that the training guide be developed further and distributed so that those who missed out can also benefit.

TBA-MU workshop: participants and their institutions of origin

Participant	Sex	Academic level	Institution of origin	Work position
Abraham R. Mwesigye	M	MSc	Makerere University - Forest Biology & Eco. Mgt	Lecturer
Bernard Fungo	M	BSc	Makerere University - Faculty of FNC	Research Assistant
Edward Andama	M	MSc	Gulu University - Science Education	Deputy Dean & Lecturer
Gauden Nantale	F	MSc	Uganda Group Network of Ethnobiology/Makerere - Botany	Assistant Secretary
Hilary Bakamwesiga	M	MSc	Makerere University - MUIENR	Research Officer
Lucy Mulugo Were	F	BSc	Makerere University - Community Forestry & Extension	Teaching Assistant
Maria Mbatudde	F	MSc	Makerere University - Botany	Herbarium Assistant
Masaba Sowedi	M	MSc	Islamic University in Uganda - Environmental Studies	Lecturer
Michael Malinga	M	BSc	National Forestry Authority - Tree Seed Centre, Namanve	Nursery & Tree Improvement Supervisor
Moreen Uwimbabazi	F	BSc	Makerere University - Faculty of FNC	Graduate
Patricia Miti Namwanda	F	MSc	Makerere University - Belowground Biodiversity Project	Database Assistant
Raymond Katebaka	M	BSc	Makerere University - MUIENR	Research Assistant
Richard Busaule	M	BEnv	UNDP GEF/SGP - Uganda	Programme Assistant (Intern)
Robert Bitariho	M	MSc	Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation	Senior Field Officer
Robert T. Baganda	M	BEnv	Pro-biodiversity Conservationists in Uganda	Project Coordinator
Robinah K. Nanyunja	F	MSc	Save our Planet Earth-Uganda	Project Supervisor
Samson Gwali	M	MSc	Forestry Resources Research Institute (FORRI) - Mukono	Research Officer
Simon Nampindo	M	MSc	Wildlife Conservation Society - Uganda	Research Scientist
Vettes K. Kalema*	F	MSc	Makerere University - Forest Biology & Eco. Mgt	Part-time Lecturer

* Tanzanian working and living in Uganda

TBA-MU workshop: training programme, teachers and resource persons

Workshop timetable

8 Aug 2006 Publishing your work

- 08:45 **Welcome & introductions** (JO)
09:00 **Overview** of the seminar & expectations from participants (RT)
09:05 **Talk:** Getting your work published: why and where (RT)
10:20 *Coffee*
10:40 **Talk:** Writing style (how to get your work published) (RT)
11:20 **Practical:** writing an abstract (RT)
12:30 *Lunch*
14:00 Practical cont'd
14:30 **Feedback:** abstract writing
15:00 **Talk:** writing a scientific paper (RT)
Practical. Improving your writing
17:00 *Day break*

9 Aug 2006 Getting your work funded

- 08:30 **Talk:** Writing funding proposals (AK)
10:20 *Te/ coffee break*
10:45 **Practical:** what makes a good funding proposal
12:30 *Lunch*
14:00 Practical cont'd
14:30 **Feedback:** results of the Practical
15:30 **Talk:** case studies of conservation projects funded in Uganda (BB)
17:00 *Day break*

10 Aug 2006 Communication skills and fund-raising strategies

- 08:30 **Talk:** Communications skills (RT)
09:00 **Delegates presentations**³ (Chair -JO)
10:00 *Tea/coffee break*
09:00 **Delegates presentations**⁴ (Chair -JO)
12:00 **Feedback:** what makes a good presentation? (JO)
12:30 *Lunch*
14:00 **Group discussions:** What makes a good presentation
16:00 **Feedback:** working groups
16:30 *Tea/coffee break*
17:00 **Talk:** Fund-raising for research and conservation work in Uganda (DO)

11 Aug 2006 Project budgeting and getting your work known – the way forward

- 08:45 **Talk:** Preparing a good Curriculum Vitae and statement of achievement (AK)
10:00 *Tea/coffee break*
Group photo
10:30 **Talk:** Budgeting for research and conservation projects (RT)
11:20 **Practical :** preparing a paper/funding proposal summary
12:30 *Lunch*
14:00 **Working groups:** Lessons learnt so far, and the way forward
16:00 **Feedback:** working groups
16:30 **Talk:** Making the best of your training – lessons from previous training (AK)
16:45 Workshop assessment
17:00 **Closing remarks,** presentation of certificates and the closing ceremony (ER)

³ **Simon Nampindo:** The impact of the conflict in northern Uganda on vegetation cover and its implications for natural resource management; **Edward Andama:** An integrated human-wild conflict management around two tropical forest parks in Uganda; **Gauden Nantale:** Analysis of East African highland banana landrace proportions on-farm: indigenous knowledge (IK) based farmers' perceptions; **Raymond Katebaka:** Bird diversity in farmlands adjacent to Rwenzori Mt. National Park in the Albertine Rift of Uganda; **Samson Gwali:** Genetic Variation of the Sheanut butter tree (*Vitellaria paradoxa* subspecies *nilotica*) in the savannah parklands of Uganda

⁴ **Hilary Bakamwesiga:** Analysing multiple values and institutions for sustaining wetland conservation and community livelihoods in the Lake Victoria Basin; **Michael Malinga:** Assessment of bark quality and genetic diversity in Ugandan *Prunus africana* populations for the development of on-farm cultivation and export markets; **Masaba Sowed:** Economic valuation of wetlands degradation in the Lake Kyoga catchment in Uganda

Workshop teachers and resource persons

Prof. E Katunguka-Rwakishaya (ER)	Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Makerere University
Prof. Joseph Obua (JO):	Head of Department, Forest Biology and Ecosystems Management, Makerere University
Mr. David Obot (DO):	Executive Director, Network Ugandan Researchers & Research Users
Mr. Anthony Kuria (AK):	Project Manager, Tropical Biology Association
Dr. Rosie Trevelyan (RT):	Director, Tropical Biology Association
Dr. Gerald Eilu (GE):	Deputy Dean, Fac. of Forestry and Nature Conservation, Makerere University
Mr. Byamukama Biryahwaho (BB)	Sustainability Watch Network/Nature Solutions Initiatives
Ms. Moreen Uwimbabazi	Workshop Assistant, Tropical Biology Association/Makerere University

TBA-MU workshop: participants' questionnaire responses

Number of respondents 17

Query	Response option	Response tally	% Respondents
a) How did you rate the teaching on the workshop:			
	1 = Very poor	0	-
	2 = Poor	0	-
	3 = Average	0	-
	4 = Good	7	41.2
	5 =Excellent	10	58.8
b) How did you find the balance between talks and practicals/ discussion?			
	1. Too many talks	0	-
	2. About right	17	100.0
	3. Too many practicals/ discussion	0	-
c) How did you rate the workshop overall?			
	1 = Very poor	0	-
	2 = Poor	0	-
	3 = Average	0	-
	4 = Good	5	29.4
	5 =Excellent	12	70.6
d) How likely are you to apply lessons learned from the workshop in your forthcoming work?			
	1. not likely	0	-
	2. likely	0	-
	3. Very likely	17	100.0
e) Would this workshop have been useful to others in your institution?			
	1. not useful	0	-
	2. Useful	2	11.8
	3. Very useful	15	88.2

f) What comments do you have on the workshop?

- ⇒ *"The interactive nature of the workshop was particularly very useful"*
- ⇒ *"It was a successful workshop, well coordinated and hope to have more training"*
- ⇒ *"Thank you so much. You have given me gold and be sure, I'll use it right. Thanks once more"*
- ⇒ *"The workshop has been super good and absolutely useful"*
- ⇒ *"Presenters are ready to help, cheerful and have mastered their skills; covering quite a lot in a little time...so wonderful"*
- ⇒ *"In general the workshop was a success. It catered for the real needs"*
- ⇒ *"Generally good. Is it possible to increase on the number of people?"*
- ⇒ *"Make training last 2 weeks; was enriching"*
- ⇒ *"The workshop was very useful and educative and I am very thankful to be part of it. We learnt a lot. Period, if possible should be increased as there is a lot to learn within only four days"*
- ⇒ *"Well organised. More training of this nature can help to polish up more on skills acquired here"*
- ⇒ *"The workshop was purposefully arranged as a skill sharing workshop"*
- ⇒ *"Such workshops should continuously be run in Uganda to enlighten more of STP. I am going to start helping friends/institution to review their reports, proposals and publish my work too"*
- ⇒ *"This was really wonderful plan, thoughtful. It came at an appropriate time. I will also share the skills with my colleagues back at my institution and students who participated"*
- ⇒ *"Logframe should be included on the next workshop"*

⇒ "I have been motivated to put all knowledge to work because, it is exactly my field. [workshop] has been very informative, knowledgeable"

⇒ "Very educative"

j) How will you use the knowledge and skills gained from the workshop afterwards? [number of participants sharing same position]

- My job involves research. The knowledge is going to help me very much in proposal and paper writing
- Develop fundable proposals/ improve my proposal for co-funding [5]
- Write better technical reports
- Work on/write (scientific) papers for publication / write loads and loads of papers/ polish up [papers] I'd written before and send them to journals for publishing/ write good scientific papers and proposal [6]
- Improve my performance on job/perform better at work [2]
- Become a better scientist/fundraiser
- Improve the scientific writing [2]
- Improve my CV, presentation, etc / Marketing myself and my organisation
- Guide/mentor my colleagues who lack these skills/educate fellow colleagues and students on writing good proposals, scientific papers as well as funding proposals / tell other colleagues about the skills gained/share/disseminate information/experience [6]
- Improve my previous research work for publication / Publish my thesis/ work [3]
- Skills will be very useful in some ways especially for the institution to write good proposals
- Write reports, proposals for my institution (fundraising)
- Write my PhD proposal [3]
- I want to first concentrate in writing scientific paper to international journal from thesis / Write at least three scientific papers for publishing
- Collaborate/interaction
- Make better presentation during my teaching lessons

k) Would you like to participate in similar workshops in future and if so on what topics [number of participants sharing same position]

- A workshop (an intensive one) where the output will be a paper or proposal ready to be submitted for publication or funding
- project planning and management/ logframes [3]
- facilitation of workshops, conferences and seminars/fundraise for them [2]
- how to run and manage projects on conservation / working on international projects [2]
- Fundraising/ writing proposals and giving presentations [3]
- Monitoring and evaluation / theory and methods of valuing the environment and natural resources
- how to start a newsletter on environmental conservation
- [community] development/Environment/conservation aspects [4]
- networking
- Conservation/agriculture/GIS/Soils/Environment
- Publishing/ Changes in writing skills/ reviewers
- Financial management/ Personnel administration
- Database management / Documenting lessons learnt