

TBA Africa Alumni Group (TAAG) African Students' Conference 2015

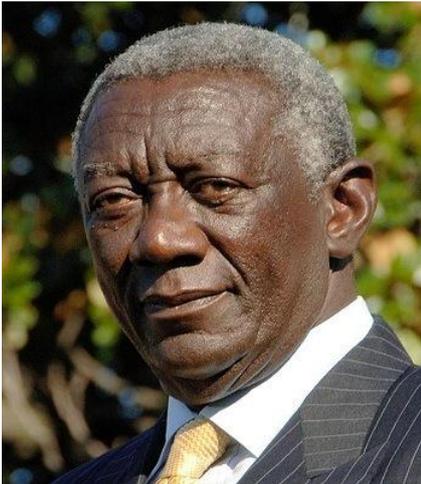
Speakers

Opening address

Guest of Honour

His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor

UN Special Envoy on Climate Change
President of Republic of Ghana (2001-2009)



H.E. John A. Kufuor is a current UN Special Envoy on Climate Change. He was President of the Republic of Ghana from January 2001 until January 2009. Kufuor was educated at Osei Tutu Boys College and Prempeh College in Kumasi; Lincoln's Inn, London and Exeter College, University of Oxford, England.

Before becoming President of Ghana, his public service included Chief Legal Officer and Town Clerk (City Manager) of Kumasi in 1967, and member of the 1968-69 and the 1979 Constituent Assemblies that drafted the Constitutions of the Second and Third Republics of Ghana respectively. He was twice elected as a Member of Parliament, during the Second and Third Republics and has been a Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

After his presidency, he set up the John Agyekum Kufuor Foundation (JAK Foundation) because of his passion for practical and sustainable responses to the challenge of development in Africa. The foundation aims to help meet the challenge of Africa's development by advancing effective leadership, good governance and socio-economic development.

Among many awards, H.E. Kufuor has received the Chatham House Prize (2008), the Distinction of Grand Cordon in the Most Venerable Order of the Knighthood of the Pioneers of the Republic of Liberia (2008), and the World Federation of Honorary Consuls' Order of the Gold Star (2008). In the UK, he is an Honorary Fellow at Exeter College, Oxford University, and at John Moore University, Liverpool, and he has an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. He is a Knight Commander of the Order of Bath of the UK, conferred by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and was awarded the highest honour of the Order of the House of Orange, conferred by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands. State Honours have also been received from various countries including Italy, Germany and Brazil.

Africa's terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity: Status and threats

Benjamin Apraku Gyampoh, PhD

African Academy of Sciences, Nairobi-Kenya



Benji Gyampoh is a Ghanaian research manager and scientist in natural resources and climate change. His research interests are in vulnerability assessment; coping, adaptation and mitigation strategies; and indigenous knowledge in climate change adaptation. Before joining the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) in Nairobi, he worked with the International Water Management Institute, Accra, from 2009 to 2012. At AAS, he leads the implementation of the "Climate Impact Research Capacity and Leadership Enhancement (CIRCLE) programme.

He is editor of the "SCIENCE*POLICY*AFRICA" Newsletter of the AAS and he writes the blog, GEOTHINKING (<http://benjigyampoh.blogspot.com/>).

Biodiversity and ecosystem functioning and services

Mwangi Githiru, D.Phil

Director of Biodiversity and Social Monitoring at Wildlife Works, Kenya



At Wildlife Works, Mwangi leads teams assessing the environmental and social impacts of REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) projects in Africa. Prior to this, Mwangi worked for the Kenya Government in the Ministry of Science and Technology.

His academic credentials include a BSc. from Moi University, and an MSc. from Kenyatta University; a D.Phil. from the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, and a three-year post-doc at the University of Antwerp as a Marie Curie Fellow.

Mwangi is the author of many publications, including book chapters, technical reports, and scholarly articles. He is a Watson International Scholar of the Environment Program (Brown University), an Archbishop Tutu Leadership Programme Fellow, and a Kinship Conservation Fellow. Although mainly trained in ecology, Mwangi is deeply interested in issues at the intersection of science-policy-conservation-economics, spanning government and non-governmental sectors, academia and the private sector.

Capacity building as a tool for conservation - how do we know we are winning?

Rosie Trevelyan, PhD

Director, Tropical Biology Association



Rosie is a passionate advocate of investing in people for effective conservation. She has over 20 years' experience of delivering targeted training and long-term support. The impact of TBA capacity building under her leadership includes successive cohorts of influential African conservation managers.

A member of several boards and committees, Rosie is also Coordinator of the Student Conference on Conservation Science that runs each year at Cambridge University, UK. She is a co-founder and Committee member of both the Cambridge Conservation Forum, and the Cambridge Conservation Initiative. The latter is a partnership of leaders in conservation research, education, public and private policy and action.

Rosie was at the initial meeting that resulted in the formation of the TBA African Alumni Group (TAAG). She has drawn on her experience and commitment to capacity building to support and strengthen the group and was a Guest Speaker at the inaugural TAAG African Students Conference in Kenya in 2013.

Rosie received her BSc and PhD in Zoology from Oxford University. She has written book chapters, training manuals and identification guides. Rosie is very interested in field based training, and measuring impacts of capacity building, and has vast knowledge and experience in Africa.