

Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences

2010-11 Student Proposal Cover Page

Applicant Information

Applicant Name:	Valerie Were	Email:	were0005@umn.edu
Project Title:	Linking non-governmental organizations, water law, and community values: Lessons from western Kenya		
Department:	Natural Resources Science and Management	College:	College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences
Home address:	1707 Tatum Street, Apartment 10	City & State:	Falcon Heights, MN Zip: 55113
Faculty advisor name:	Dr. Karlyn Eckman and Dr. Kristen Nelson	Email:	eckma001@umn.edu and nelso468@umn.edu <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable
Dept. Head's name:	Dr. Mike Kilgore	Dept. Head's email:	mkilgore@umn.edu
Dean's name:	Dr. Allen Levine	Dean's email:	aslevine@umn.edu

How did you hear about this funding opportunity? Via e-mail from the assistant to the DGS

Funding

Total amount of funding requested:	\$ 9,925.58	Is funding available within your center or dept for this project? No
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Executive summary (maximum 200 words)

East Africa's Lake Victoria is a critical resource for the countries and people that live on its shores, providing food security and livelihoods for thousands. The Lake faces numerous pressures that national governments lack financial resources to address. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are key change agents working with lakeshore communities and implementing internationally-funded projects. The NGOs have to navigate complex laws that govern access to and use of water resources as they interact with government entities and local populations. Water is governed by customary rules and norms, as well as recently adopted statutory and codified laws. Customary rules influence access rights (especially by gender and age) and often determine the means of resolving disputes over water. My research seeks to understand the nexus of NGO projects, water law, and local participation around water access and use in the Kenyan portion of the Lake Victoria basin. Results from my research will help NGOs, and officials responsible for managing water under statutory law, understand how customary rules influence local participation and rights of access. Overlooking this nexus can lead to more conflict over access to water and to failed projects.

Approvals

Check all appropriate approvals required for your proposal. Approvals must be obtained prior to receipt of funding. If you have applied for approval but have not yet received it, indicate that below.

IRB	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application pending	I will submit an IRB application by the end of March 2011
IACUC	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Application pending	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Application pending	

Checklist

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposal is 1000 words or less excluding budget, biographies, references and citations.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposal includes a work plan with a specific timeline using months or quarters to identify work to be done and completion dates.

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- The proposal includes a 1-2 paragraph biography of the applicant and all co-investigators.

 - The budget form is complete including the funds sought for this project, other pending applications for this project, and the amount/source of matching or other funds.

 - The applicant's faculty advisor is copied on the application email. Professional students w/o advisors check NA.

 - All necessary approvals are pending or received.

**Linking non-governmental organizations, water law, and community values:
Lessons from western Kenya**

Background: Lake Victoria is one of Africa's Great Lakes (Awange and Ong'ang'a, 2006). Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi form the lake's catchment basin but the shoreline is divided among Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. Like many other lake basins, Lake Victoria faces pressures from a number of factors. Growth in urban centers and rural areas is estimated at 6% and 3% per year, respectively (Ntiba et al., 2001). Overfishing, pollution from industrial and agricultural sources, and invasive species infestations threaten the sustainability of the lake's resources. Managing the lake sustainably is critical because the shoreline countries' economies and the well-being their citizens are threatened by declining environmental conditions (Hecky, 1993; Muli, 1996; Ntiba et al., 2001).

Improving conditions in the Lake Victoria Basin (LVB) requires significant financial investment but the shoreline countries lack adequate funds to address research and management issues alone. Currently, most funds come from the international community (Crul, 1993; Ntiba et al., 2001) administered through non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The number of NGOs increased dramatically in Africa the 1970s and 1980s (Ward, 1989; Amutabi, 2006) and reaction to their presence varies. Regardless of NGO reception in host countries, few data are available on their effectiveness (Eckman, 1994; Lewis and Kanji, 2009) and demand for their accountability is growing (Jordan and van Tuijl, 2006).

Project Importance: Assistance from NGOs raises questions of how these organizations navigate the complex laws that govern access to and use of natural resources as they interact with government entities and local populations. I will focus on water. Although there are codified laws and national water plans, customary rules and norms still play an important role in resolving conflicts. Current water laws reflect co-existence of customary rules and norms used by local populations; the influence of laws enacted during the colonial era, and recently adopted statutory laws used by the government (Caponera, 1979; Burchi, 2005). Results from my research will help NGOs, and those responsible for managing water under statutory law,

comprehend how customary rules and norms are enforced. They need to understand these rules and norms because overlooking them can lead to more conflict and failed projects.

Interdisciplinary Nature and Innovative Contribution: This research combines the natural and social sciences to understand the nexus of NGOs, water law, and local participation around a common pool resource. Customary rules and norms regarding water remain unexplored in this region therefore my research will contribute to improving NGO project impacts and outcomes among local communities. My results also benefit the other Basin countries where there are similar situations of the coexistence of multiple layers of laws. In addition, my results may also have broader application in North America, where State agencies, for example, are grappling with similar issues of civic engagement and local participation.

Research Questions

1. What customary rules and norms govern water resources use and management in the Kenyan portion of the LVB?
2. How do NGOs in the Kenyan portion of the LVB incorporate local norms and customs about water in their project activities?

Data Collection and Analysis: My research focuses on the Kenyan portion of the LVB because I have the advantage of already speaking the local language. I will use a combination of interviews, social surveys, and archival material review to gather data. Many customary laws are unwritten therefore I will rely on interviews with legal scholars, local government officials, community leaders, and individuals within the community to gather data about customary rules and norms that govern water use. Question 2 requires understanding the NGO community. I will survey the NGOs to understand how they incorporate local perspectives in their work. I will also interview their staff to verify data from the surveys. The Kenyan national and law archives as well as newspaper archives are potentially rich sources of information about water law, dispute resolution, and the role of NGOs in water resources management.

Valerie Were

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Analyzing data from the surveys and interviews requires different techniques. I will enter and analyze survey data using SPSS Statistical Software (SPSS, 2001). I will transcribe and code interviews before analysis using methods described by Emmerson (1995). Pertinent information from archival sources will be extracted via content analysis.

Research Timeline

January 2011 - May 2011 (U.S.):

- Complete written and oral Ph.D. preliminary exam
- Complete IRB requirements

July 2011 - September 2011 (Kenya): Field Visit 1

- Acquire required research permissions
- Finalize the NGO sampling frame
- Preliminary interviews to inform NGO survey instrument
- Identify individuals familiar with traditional rules and norms regarding water

October 2011 – December 2011 (U.S.): Refine methods based on first fieldwork session

- Transcribe, code and analyze interviews from Field Visit 1
- Present results from first field session to committee
- Develop and pre-test survey instrument

January 2012 – June 2012 (Kenya): Field Visit 2

- Re-test, refine, and administer survey instrument
- Review secondary sources
- Conduct interviews to understand customary rules and norms regarding water
- Interview a subset of NGOs which receive the survey

July 2012 – December 2012 (U.S.): Data entry and analysis

January 2013 – May 2013 (US): Final dissertation preparation

References

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- Caponera, D. A. 1979. *Water law in selected African countries*. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy. Legislative study no. 17. 267 pages.
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- Emerson, R.M. 1995. Processing Fieldnotes: Coding and Memoing *In Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*, R.M. Emerson, R.I. Fretz, and L.L. Shaw. University of Chicago Press, Chicago IL. 245 pp.
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Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment the Life Sciences
Budget for Student Proposals

Project Title: Linking non-governmental organizations, water law, and community values: Lessons from western Kenya

		Requested funding	Matching/other funding	
		Amount	Amount	Source
Instructions: add rows for multiple personnel.				
Category	Description & justification			
Personnel	Salary = 266 hrs x 15 hrly wage	3990		
What is hourly wage & fringe based on-- departmental, community or other rate?	Fringe rate (FY 2011 = 0.242)	965.58		
	Personnel Subtotal	4955.58		
	___ speakers x \$ ___ honorarium			
Speaker Honoraria	List items and explain use.	0		
Supplies & Services	Copies and postage of archival documents	500		
Equipment <i>Equipment costs are allowable only if the justification clearly shows that the equipment is necessary for the project. Include explanation of what will happen to equipment at completion of project.</i>	\$350 is requested to purchase a high quality digital recorder with USB capabilities and extra digital memory cards for recording interviews. (Recorder priced 2/2/11 on Amazon.com at \$300, extra cards at \$25 each)	350		
Travel <i>Travel costs must include a description of the purpose of the travel, start and stop dates of travel, transportation costs, housing costs, and allowable per diem (use University rates found at http://travel/umn.edu).</i>	Roundtrip airfare to Kenya from July to September 2011 (\$2200), housing (staying with family \$0), meals and incidental expenses per diem (\$60/ day*22 days, half per diem rate for the maximum days, reduced since I will be staying with family), transportation (\$600, \$500 for equivalent of 1 week Budget Car Rental (priced 2/3/11) + public transportation). Time will be spent defining the sample population and conducting interviews to develop the final survey and to learn about customary water rules.	4120		
Subtotal research supplies, equipment, travel, other		4970	5000	Compton International Fellowship
TOTAL BUDGET		9925.58	5000	14925.58

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Project Title: Linking non-governmental organizations, water law, and community values: Lessons from western Kenya

Instructions provided below.			Requested funding	Matching/other funding	
	Personnel costs	Description & justification Salary = hrs x hrly wage	Amount	Amount	Source
1	Your salary (stipend)	Salary = 266 hrs x 15 hrly wage = 3990 + Fringe (FY 2011 0.242) = 965.58	4995.58		
2	Other personnel	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5	Personnel Subtotal		\$4,955.58	\$0.00	\$0.00
6	Speaker Honoraria	Number of speakers and amount of honoraria	N/A	N/A	N/A
7	Supplies & Services	Archival materials copies and postage to the U.S.	500		
8	Equipment	\$350 is requested to purchase a high quality digital recorder with USB capabilities and extra digital memory cards for recording interviews. (Recorder priced 2/2/11 on Amazon.com at \$300, extra cards at \$25 each)	350		
9	Travel	Roundtrip airfare to Kenya from July to September 2011 (\$2200), housing (staying with family \$0), meals and incidental expenses per diem (\$60/day*22 days, half per diem rate for the maximum days, reduced since I will be staying with family), transportation (\$600, \$500 for equivalent of 1 week Budget Car Rental (priced 2/3/11) + public transportation). Time will be spent defining the sample population and conducting interviews to develop the final survey and to learn about customary water rules.	4120		
10	Subtotal research supplies, equipment, travel, other		\$4,970.00	\$5,000.00	Compton International Fellowship
11	TOTAL BUDGET		\$9,925.58	\$5,000.00	\$14,925.58

1. Stipend justification. You must justify the amount of stipend you are requesting by identifying the number of hours you plan to work on the project and the hourly wage used for research assistants in your department. Include fringe benefits.
- 2-4. Identify all other personnel to be paid from this grant including interpreters, travel guides, etc. and justify their salary by identifying the number of hours they will work and the hourly wage. What is the hourly wage based on?
6. For colloquia, identify the number of speakers and the amount of honoraria you will provide.
7. Supplies and services. List out all supplies and their estimated costs. Explain in line 7 or in the body of your proposal what the supplies will be used for.
8. Equipment costs are allowable only if the justification clearly shows that the equipment is necessary for the project. Include explanation of what will happen to equipment at completion of project.
9. Travel costs must include a description of the purpose of the travel, start and stop dates of travel, transportation costs, housing costs, and allowable per diem (use University rates found at [http:// travel/umn.edu](http://travel/umn.edu)).

Biography

Valerie Were majored in Watershed Science as an undergraduate at Utah State University and put some of the skills learned in classrooms to task by working as a field technician during summer breaks. From Utah, she moved to the University of Minnesota to pursue an M.S. in Water Resources Science. Her thesis focused on using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping to link streamside characteristics with water quality measurements to identify exemplary conditions in agriculturally-dominated landscapes. After receiving her M.S., she worked for Outdoor Corps (OC) for three years. OC was a U of M Extension program for high school students interested in monitoring lake water quality in their communities. During this time, she became interested in studying how observations made in the environment translate into actual policy and how local communities participate in shaping those policies. As such, she is currently enrolled as a Ph.D. student in the U of M's Natural Resources Science and Management Graduate Program. Valerie is an Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change (ICGC) Scholar and recipient of a Compton International Fellowship in 2010.