

# Exchange to change Alumni magazine #37

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E2C

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# Dear alumni

*A new edition of Exchange to change ... we hope you like it! As usual the Exchange team has provided a selection of both alumni news and stories as well as pressing development issues from around the world.*

*In this edition, first, you get a glimpse of what has been going on @ IOB. Reading about the 2018 student trip to Paris will make you relive yours... Many of you have been able to attend one of the several alumni events that IOB has been organizing, but those who haven't can read about fellow classmates' involvement in them. One of these days an alumni event is bound to be organised near you!*

*In the alumni applause, you can read about Janvier Kilosho's literally groundbreaking PhD research on mining in DRC or about the eye-opening documentary made by several IOB alumni and former staff on 'mercy killings' in Uganda. Our news story ponders as to whether a new wind is blowing over South Africa and Zimbabwe or whether it will just be old wine in new bottles.*

*Last but not least, the exchange team tackled the omnipresent question on whether it is possible to give all human beings what they need, while at the same time preserving the planet they live on and its resources. We contacted IOB alumni with expertise in this area; Dr Susan Sekirime from the African Wildlife Authority, and Francis Mbunya Nkemnyi, about to defend his IOB PhD dissertation on an adjacent topic, share their insights on the matter. Finally, have a browse through the opportunities and events sections, as we would like to welcome you (again) at one of our IOB events.*

*Happy reading!*

*The Exchange to change team*

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E2C team: Sahawal Alidou, Hans De Backer, Sara Dewachter, Joëlle Dhondt, Mollie Gleiberman, Kujiek Ruot Kuajien, Lisa Popelier, Maria Perez Quintana and Sarah Vancluysen

# Alumni applause

## PhD



Congrats to Dr Kilosho!

On 5 April, IOB alumnus **Janvier Kilosho** (GOV, 2010) successfully defended his PhD entitled 'Industrialisation et Traçabilité minières au Sud-Kivu : Quel avenir pour les exploitants miniers artisanaux?' Janvier was awarded a joint PhD in development studies (University of Antwerp) and economics (University of Leuven) within the framework of a PhD fellowship from the Institutional University Cooperation programme (IUC) VLIR-UOS. In his research, he studies the mining sector in East DR Congo focusing on tensions between artisanal and industrial modes of production. He is a junior lecturer at Université Catholique de Bukavu and a team member of CEGEMI and the Laboratoire d'Economie Appliquée au Développement (LEAD – UCB).

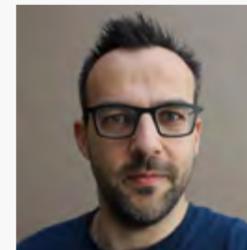
## Published!



IOB alumnus **Christian Senga** (Training 'Governing for Development, 2010) Danny Cassimon and former IOB staff Dennis Essers have published a new ACROPOLIS-BeFinD Working Paper (No 23, April 2018) on '[Sub-Saharan African Eurobond yields: What really matters beyond global factors?](#)'



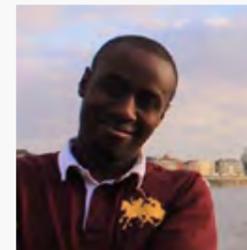
IOB alumnus **Pierre Merlet** (GLOB, 2009), current IOB student **René Rodriguez-Fabilena** and **Gert Van Hecken** have been working on the development of a simulation game with IOB partner Nitlapan-UCA in Nicaragua. They wrote an article about this process '[Playing before paying? A PES simulation game for assessing power inequalities and motivations in the governance of Ecosystem Services](#)' which has just been published in the journal *Ecosystem Services* (2018)



IOB alumnus **Wim Marivoet** (GLOB, 2003) and **Tom De Herdt** have recently published an article on '[What happens with Household Assets during Economic Collapse? The Case of the Democratic Republic of the Congo \(1975-2010\)](#)' in *The Journal of Development Studies* (2018).

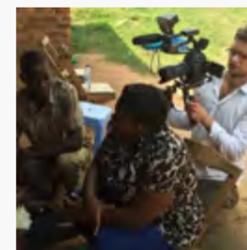


IOB alumna and current academic assistant **Loresel Abainza** (GOB, 2011) co-authored an article with **Germán Calfat** on return migration entitled '[Home sweet home: embracing the return to returnees' migration](#)' in *Migration and Development* (2018).



IOB alumnus and current IOB academic assistant **Ivan Ashaba** (GOV, 2015) co-authored (with Karen Büsher and Sophie Komujuni) an article on '[Humanitarian urbanism in a post-conflict aid town: aid agencies and urbanization in Gulu, Northern Uganda](#)' in the *Journal of Eastern African Studies*.

## On the screen ...



IOB alumni **Gerald Bareebe** (GOV, 2011), **Rose Namboozee** (GLOB, 2010), former IOB staff member Inge Wagemakers and Luk Dewulf (director) jointly made an investigative documentary '[Mercy Killing](#)'. The documentary captures stories of Ugandan parents struggling with the efforts and sacrifices related to caring for their disabled child. They share the stories of desperate parents who could not manage it anymore and killed their own child (a practice called 'mercy killing'). The documentary was broadcast on Belgian and Ugandan national television and is being shown in several movie theatres in Flanders.

# Meeting the needs of all within the means of the planet: mission impossible?

The feasibility of living within the environmental limits is a hotter topic than ever nowadays. For some time now, policy-makers and academics have indicated that infinite economic and demographic growth might not be achievable nor desirable given the limitations of the planet (see for instance 'Limits to Growth' published in 1972). However, it is only rather recently that renowned (economic) theories and models have been so widely criticized because of their ignorance of the role of natural resources and the myth of infinite economic growth and that alternative models to development have gained attention (see e.g. Kate Raworth 2017). Hans Bruyninckx (Executive Director of the European Environment Agency) and Jeffrey Sachs have both emphasized during their masterclass on sustainable development that achieving a world in which people and planet thrive in harmony requires political commitment to a scientifically informed paradigm shift. Admittedly, there are promising global commitments to sustainable management of the resources of our global system, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement. While people such as Jeffrey Sachs are positive regarding the feasibility of achieving these goals, news reports of the adverse effects of global, national and local pressures on scarce resources might make others cynical about such political commitments.

Yet, both optimistic and more cynical policy-makers have emphasized the importance of guidance by professionals and academics in the implementation of technical and political solutions for a more sustainable world. Therefore, the Exchange to Change team has invited **Francis Mbunya Nkemnyi** (IOB PhD candidate, 2014-2018) and **Susan Sekirime** (DEM alumna, 2011-2012) to shed their light on the various local and global economic pressures, the strategies to combine economic aspirations and environmental conservation, and the challenges encountered when implementing these strategies.

**E2C: Francis, could you shortly summarize your PhD project?**

**FM:** My doctoral study explored the linkages that existed between wildlife conservation and livelihood and how they could promote sustainable forest management in Tofala Hill Wildlife Sanctuary, Cameroon. I applied a number of theoretical and conceptual frameworks in exploring the environment-development linkages, but the main theoretical concept for the study was the concept of community-based natural resource management.

The study revealed that participatory management as an incentive to sustainable forest management requires equity in power-relations amongst the actors. Actors are the mediators in institutions and policy. Thus, if actors prioritise social justice in the negotiation of access to forest resources/land use, conservation and livelihoods attention could be weighted equally in decision making. Sustainable forest management could be achievable if institutions and policies cooperate to ensure that rules, behaviour, actors, strategies, plans, programmes and the

system of administration uphold social justice in all processes.

**E2C: Do you think local and global economic pressures are compatible with environmental protection? Why (not)?**

**FM:** Local pressures on the environment are most often linked to the direct depletion of natural resources through livelihood activities while national/global pressures are mostly linked to industrial pollution and the emission of greenhouse gases. However, although

they may be different in amplitude and intensity, their effects have similar outputs and cannot be underestimated. Local and global economic pressures are increasingly posing threats to environmental sustainability given that economic development requires the exploitation of natural resources. The rapid increase in local and global technology also directly increases natural resource usage, which has a negative impact on environment health and subsequently on public health. This is why international policies are increasingly emphasizing and strengthening the links between environmental protection and economic development.

**SS:** I think protecting wildlife and promoting economic development are not mutually exclusive. The two goals are interlinked, and you cannot achieve one without affecting the other. You

cannot secure protection for wildlife, for example, if people living in and around wildlife areas are unable to feed their families especially with the current high population growth rates. Nor can you achieve livelihood improvement without utilizing biodiversity resources—particularly in Africa where a majority of people depend on biodiversity resources for their livelihood. Beyond local livelihoods, Africa is also transitioning to a period of rapid modernization and increased investments: in agriculture, mining and gas. Superimposed on the same blueprint is also a myriad of other blueprints — blueprints for infrastructure projects that include roads, railways and dams; blueprints for logging concessions; and blueprints for human settlement.

There is a false assumption that Africa's wildlife and wild lands must or should be sacrificed in order for the continent

to modernize and maintain the steady pace of its economic growth, and most governments are unfortunately making these sacrifices. I argue that these sacrifices are unnecessary.

**E2C: Which strategies can be applied to ensure that environmental conservation and economic and human development are compatible goals?**

**SS:** Land sparing: increasing agricultural yields while limiting the area needed for farming, will ensure retention of larger areas under natural habitats and limit the immense impact of agriculture on the rest of biodiversity. This will require identifying yield-enhancing systems with low environmental costs e.g. integrated pest management, genetic modification, etc. The key questions that remain are whether this approach is applicable across different biota and

## Sustainable development



whether it can weather environmental externalities. In addition to improving agricultural practices, it is worthwhile exploring demand-side interventions as well e.g. lowering waste and lowering consumption of animal protein.

Another strategy is to engage businesses in the management of biodiversity: all businesses, regardless of size, location or sector, depend upon and have a direct or indirect impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services (BES) through their operations, supply chains or investment choices. It is thus important for businesses to integrate BES considerations into their practices and to participate in the sustainable and equitable use and conservation of BES.

**FM:** Environmental challenges are context specific and there is no generally accepted model for solving them. Effective management of environmental challenges requires assessing the context and developing solutions in relation to the available expertise, cultural settings and institutional settings of the locality in question. In addition, it is challenging to completely isolate economic pressure from protected areas including national parks and reserves. This explains why the term sustainable management of natural resources is increasingly used in development interventions. Sustainable natural resources management emphasizes participatory management and the use of resources in a way that can still sustain the needs of the future generation.

**E2C:** Susan, you have worked for the African Wildlife Foundation. What are the most important challenges the organization is confronted with?

**SS:** I personally think funding is the most important challenge for the organization, as well as for many other conservation organizations. Conservation costs money, and as we already know, and as has already been acknowledged by the Convention on Biological Diversity, at least 40 per cent of the world's economy and 80 per cent of the needs of the poor are derived

from biological resources, in addition to medical discoveries, and adaptive responses to such new challenges as climate change. Yet when compared to traditional humanitarian work such as education, health and livelihood improvement, conservation receives the least attention when it comes to funding allocation. Many governments have mainstreamed biodiversity into policy and national strategies for development, and many donors equally acknowledge the important role that biodiversity plays in the larger efforts for economic development. This, however, is yet to be translated into adequate financial backing.

**E2C:** How do you think wildlife protection will evolve in the future?

**SS:** We are living in a time of great innovations in all sectors including industry, information technology and infrastructure, yet the recognition that the success of these human development agendas are underpinned by functional ecosystems, and by

biodiversity, remains limited. I therefore see wildlife protection converging with economics in the future, particularly since wildlife is already recognized as an essential natural capital asset for sustainable development (UN Agenda 2030, CBD) and since natural capital accounting has been identified as a means of mainstreaming biodiversity into decision-making and development policies for better management of this resource (SDG Target 15.9; Aichi Targets 2). This will ensure that the value of biodiversity and the ecosystem services it supports are reflected in market prices, and therefore reflected in traditional assessments of economic progress and development planning.

With the current developments, I also see protected areas remaining a core element of wildlife protection, although deliberate efforts to ensure and maintain connectivity will be key, particularly considering scientific research that highlights the importance of maintaining suitably managed habitats, which should be large and

connected, rather than isolated, if wildlife populations are to remain viable.

**E2C:** Francis, on the basis of your PhD research, what would be your recommendations to Cameroon and other developing countries?

**FM:** One of the main challenges between livelihood and wildlife conservation is the conflict of interest between actors in terms of power and access. Therefore, my research suggests that improving livelihood practices and value by empowering local people with knowledge and skills on sustainable livelihood opportunities might go a long way towards assuring local people that wildlife conservation will have little or no effect on their interests in livelihood. However, this also entails high financial costs which should be taken into account in the planning phase. Furthermore, there is a strong need for the development of financial mechanisms to finance sustainable forest management innovations. In addition, promoting downward accountability and transparency in forest resource management through public reporting and debate could go a long way to improve sustainable outputs.

“  
One of the main challenges between livelihood and wildlife conservation is conflict of interest between actors in terms of power and access



Community representatives at Mpanga CFR proposed CFM land



Taxi carrying forest harvested resources of *Mondia whytei* taken into the nearest town

## UAntwerp awards honorary degree to Professor Jeffrey Sachs

On 29 March, The Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development (IMDO) of the University of Antwerp conferred its honorary degree and paid tribute to Jeffrey Sachs. On this occasion, Prof. Sachs also gave a masterclass on his book *The Age of Sustainable Development* (2015). Professor Sachs was born in Detroit, Michigan on 5 November 1954 and received his PhD from Harvard University in 1980. He is “probably the most important economist in the world” (New York Times); his fame stemming from him being one of the driving forces behind the MDGs and the SDGs; his extensive work on fighting poverty, overcoming macroeconomic instability, and promoting sustainable environmental practices; and his many best-sellers.

Sachs’ work has taken him to more than 125 countries around the world, where he has advised dozens of heads of state and governments, and he currently serves as a Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres. In addition to his role at Columbia University (where he is the director of The Earth Institute, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, and Professor of Health Policy and Management) Sachs has authored and edited numerous books, including *The End of Poverty* (2005), *The Price of Civilization* (2011), and *Building the New American Economy: Smart, Fair & Sustainable* (2017). He is the recipient of many awards and honors, including the Blue Planet Prize, the World Sustainability Award, 24 honorary degrees, and many awards and honors around the world.

Although he is considered one of the world’s leading experts on economic development, Professor Sachs’s work is subject to criticism. For instance, regarding his work on the economic-

reform program for Russia (which is widely seen as a failure), Joseph Stiglitz (in 1999 and as chief economist for the World Bank) blamed “an excessive reliance on textbook models of economics”. Besides, his ideas on fighting poverty with more aid money and more expert interventions are disputed by William Easterly (Professor of Economics at New York University, Co-director of the NYU Development Research Institute, author of *The Tyranny of Experts: Economists, Dictators, and the Forgotten Rights of the Poor*, 2014; *The White Man’s Burden: Why the West’s Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good*, 2006), Dambisa Moyo (author of *Dead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There Is a Better Way for Africa*, 2009) and many others. According to Michael Clemens (senior fellow at the Center for Global Development and a leading Sachs critic), “There is zero scientific evidence that the Millennium Villages Project is meeting its goals.”

But rather than explaining why things (will) fail and why good intentions often go to waste, Sachs’s discourse is - without playing down the magnitude of the threats the world is facing- that of positivism and optimism, and that is probably what makes it attractive. As he says himself: “You can be pessimistic about the current trajectory, but also optimistic about the solutions.” According to Sachs, the main challenges to sustainable development are vested interests in politics, the technicity of the required solutions, the limited awareness of challenges and solutions. He is quite cautious regarding the first aspect, saying: “Although we can work together to address major dangers, such as man-induced global warming, we still seem to live in an age that is completely trapped in increasing distrust. We are even at risk of global destruction.” And

he is particularly critical of President Trump: “It is remarkable that the US, which was the dominant power worldwide for the past 75 years, is itself unstable and in some respects a rogue state, a rogue nation... The situation is very serious, and dangerous, until the next president is there.” (interview given to *Universiteit Antwerpen Magazine*, March 2018 issue). However, some initiatives such as China’s proposed Global Energy Interconnection – based on renewables, ultra-high-voltage transmission, and an AI-powered smart grid – which he considers “the boldest global initiative by any government to achieve the goals of the Paris climate agreement”, make him remain positive overall about the future.



Professor Jeffrey Sachs with IOB student Kujiek Ruot Kuajien after the Masterclass on Sustainable Development.

### Sources

- <https://goo.gl/4gWW4V> (live stream masterclass)
- <http://jeffsachs.org/about/>
- <https://goo.gl/wQb4Ks> (oxfam blog)
- <https://goo.gl/PHmZW5> (project and syndicate blog)

## Going global: Opening windows towards development opportunities

*The idea of traveling to a different country for whatever reason, however short normally, comes with different reactions, expectations and experiences. If you ever had such an experience, some flashbacks of such journeys are probably arising already.*

Our Exchange to change students’ representatives Maria and Kujiek interviewed **Michaela Stubbers**. She is a current IOB student who travelled to Nicaragua for the Mobility Window academic program, a six-week research internship with the UCA (Universidad Centroamericana de Nicaragua), as part of the Research Methods Unit.

### Could you please tell us about your educational background?

I studied applied economics, anthropology and statistics at the University of Leuven. As you can see in the choice of my studies, I love people and I love figures.

### Which programme are you pursuing at IOB?

I am studying an Advanced Master in Development Evaluation and Management (DEM) because it is in line with my work and future aspirations.

### Describe your experience so far at IOB, studying with different people from various continents and backgrounds.

So far, I think that studying with different people from various backgrounds and nationalities is a great experience! We are the world in one place, and that to me is rewarding. My boyfriend is currently travelling in Nepal and I am travelling in my head and in class. So, the decision to join IOB is part of my decision to build new experiences in my personal life.

### What motivated you to apply for the mobility window?

I love Central America, travelling and statistics. This seemed a great opportunity to combine my interests. Furthermore, I thought this would also be a great opportunity to experience working in a developmental context. It will be a great experience working in another country altogether.

### Why did you choose Nicaragua instead of Tanzania?

My main choice on this was driven by the quantitative nature of the project in Nicaragua which interests me more.

### How did you experience your mobility window in Nicaragua?

My experience in Nicaragua was really nice. The work itself was very open in the sense that there was no clear research question. It was rather an exploratory study, allowing me to give advice and inspiration on how to proceed further. I worked on a first collection of data amongst coffee farmers. The data collected was impressive. Everything was descriptive as a first start. The big goal of the organisation I worked for is to reinvent cooperatives. Data gathering and analysis is part of this transformation. In a first step the data makes stuff real and more explicit. By making things explicit and clarifying proceedings and the situation, a transformation can begin.

### Were you able to contribute to the research project?

Concerning my contribution, I really hope I contributed to their understanding of analyzing data. It was a lot of work due to the amount of data, the way the data was digitalized and the open nature of the question. For me the most important or valuable outcome is to help them with thinking

about data, show possibilities, encourage creativity. The first feedback from the Nicaraguan researchers was that the analysis raised new questions and routes to follow. During the presentation lots of ideas came up. That is great! For me it is difficult to assess my contribution. It is hard for me to guess which elements were useful, added value or are new info to them. Therefore for myself, I focused more on showing possibilities and stimulating reflection. The nicest feedback for me was when Ramon, my colleague in Nicaragua, told me after the presentation that it generated immediately lots of ideas for him. The overall project of the organisation is very interesting I think and I hope to be able to stay involved.



# In the meantime...

## Filipino alumni seminar

As you probably already know, IOB is investing in a more structural alumni policy. This also involves setting up alumni chapters in a number of countries (Tanzania, Uganda, Nicaragua, Philippines, Ethiopia and Vietnam). This time, IOB wanted to focus on the Philippines. Therefore, in March 2018 IOB organised an alumni seminar in Manila. The occasion also marked the start of the cooperation between IOB and De La Salle University (DLSU) in the Philippines, with Prof. Nathalie Holvoet and Dr Alellie Sobrevinas as promoters, which culminated in the signing of the MoU.

At the seminar, several IOB and DLSU staff presented their research during the morning session, while IOB alumni Karen Serrano (2016, GLOB) and Mary Ann Manahan (2015, GLOB) shared their research findings with the audience. A poster reception offered the opportunity to showcase even more IOB alumni work. The evening ended with an alumni dinner and... how could it not ... a karaoke night!

Prof. Holvoet and Sara Dewachter were also happy to meet many other IOB alumni at a lunch meeting at NEDA (National Economic Development Authority) and at ADB (Asian Development Bank). This event only marked the formalization of what was already a very vibrant alumni network. Let's keep it alive!



## Alumni in Action seminar & Photo voice exhibition

To give current students an idea about some of the relevant work IOB alumni are engaged in, IOB organises **Alumni in Action** talks. On the 21 March, IOB invited alumna Rose Nambooz (GLOB 2010 and Founder of Angel's center for Children with special needs in Uganda) to present her work on "Piloting inclusive education in Uganda, threats and opportunities in increasing access to education for children with disabilities" to the IOB students. Additionally, Caroline Masquillier (post-doctoral researcher at UAntwerp and founder of Field, a creative science communication platform that helps scientists of all domains to communicate their research results and the value of their work in an engaging and creative way) gave a presentation on "Using photo voice as a tool". In her presentation she explained how the photo voice methodology was useful in capturing the experiences and life stories of the children and parents of children with disabilities in Uganda.

Afterwards, IOB students and staff were invited to the opening of the **exhibition Uganda's Special Needs**, a photo exhibition documenting the lives of children with disabilities. The latter showcased the photos and the stories captured through photo voice techniques some of the aspects of the lives of children with disabilities in Uganda.



## A trip to the city of light

Our Masters students made it through winter and the first two modules of the program. As they say, 'time flies when you're having fun', studying of course! And, as part of the IOB tradition, 60 students took part in a three-day trip to Paris (18-21 March 2018). The trip started with a quick stop at the Eiffel Tower, where students took advantage of the opportunity to walk around and take some photos. Afterwards, we proceeded on a boat tour on the river Seine. During the afternoon, students spent their free time exploring the city, such as Montmartre, the Champs-Élysées and its surroundings, the Louvre Museum, Centre Pompidou, and many other interesting places.

On the second day we had the opportunity to visit the OECD Headquarters, and learned about the mission, role and work of the Delegation by Pieter Vermaerke, the DAC delegate from the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the OECD; this was followed by a presentation from Jason Gagnon of the office of Migration and Skills Unit. On the third day we visited the UNESCO Offices and learned about the challenges and opportunities that UNESCO is facing in terms of establishing monitoring and evaluation schemes for the Sustainable Development Goals, by Martina Rathner, followed by a presentation on the Ethics of Climate Change and UNESCO's discussions on their role in engaging with this subject. This was a great opportunity to gain first-hand experience of the 'behind the scenes' work that these agencies carry out and get a feel for their everyday work.

After the three day trip, we returned to Antwerp, refueled with energy and ready to immerse ourselves in the last teaching module of our program. Special thanks to IOB Staff (Sara, Gabi, Ivan and Hans) for traveling with us; their presence was an asset to our trip and made it even more enjoyable.



## Nicaragua meet & greet

On the 9 February 2018, the Nicaraguan alumni chapter had an informal meet-and-greet session with the alumni and Prof. Johan Bastiaensen in Managua, Nicaragua. It was a joyful encounter and further plans for an IOB alumni seminar in Nicaragua were discussed.



# Exit Dos Santos & Mugabe

## A more promising future for democracy in Angola and Zimbabwe?

In recent months, the African continent has witnessed several surprising political shake-ups. Two of the world's longest-serving presidents—José Eduardo dos Santos of Angola and Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe—both resigned in late 2017, the former bowing to pressure to step aside and the latter under the duress of what has been called a bloodless coup. And in February of this year, the scandal-plagued president of South Africa, Jacob Zuma, resigned following a vote of no-confidence from his own party. All three leaders had risen to power with popular support resulting from the roles they played in their respective countries' liberation wars; all three also presided over contested political systems marked by accusations of corruption and suppression of opposition. While it may be too early to declare the end of an era—in all three countries, though the leader in question is out, their political party remains in power—such events may signal a changing landscape for democracy in sub-Saharan Africa. In what follows, we reflect more closely on the rise and fall of dos Santos and Mugabe, and consider the legacy of these two leaders who both ruled for nearly forty years.

**José Eduardo dos Santos,  
President of Angola 1979-2017**



Angola won independence from Portugal in 1975, only to be plunged into a decades-long civil war. The conflict was between the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), which had gained control of the country upon independence, and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), a rebel group led by Jonas Savimbi. The civil war lasted until Savimbi's death in 2002 and had a devastating effect on the country's social, political, and economic development.

Dos Santos rose through the ranks of the MPLA during the struggle for liberation against Portugal in the 60s and early 70s, even though he spent most of this period in exile. When

Angola's first president, Agostinho Neto, died from cancer in 1979, dos Santos was chosen by the MPLA to succeed him. Allegedly, the MPLA selected him as a compromise; he was neither too radical nor too conservative and known for being mild-mannered, which gave the impression that he could be easily manipulated by party elders<sup>1</sup>. Despite his lack of charisma, dos Santos quickly consolidated power—and held on to it for thirty-eight years.

These thirty-eight years witnessed the rise of Angola's spectacular natural resource wealth, mainly in diamonds and oil. This fueled economic growth and turned Luanda into one of the world's most expensive cities. Yet in a classic 'resource curse' scenario, much of Angola's resource wealth was not distributed equitably across the population. At the same time, the civil war displaced nearly one-third of the population, many of whom fled the fighting in the countryside to resettle in increasingly overcrowded cities. At the end of the war in 2002, dos Santos embarked on a massive reconstruction effort to rebuild the country's infrastructure. Western donors were reluctant to offer funding due to the lack of transparency and high level of corruption, while the Angolan government would not accept the imposition of any conditionalities, leading to an impasse. The rise of China on the international scene provided a solution, in the form of a 'resources-for-infrastructure deal'. Throughout

this, dos Santos maintained his grip on power, resisting calls for fair elections and suppressing dissent.

In 2016, dos Santos relented to immense pressure from his party to step aside and agreed to resign from the presidency in September 2017. He was succeeded by another prominent member of the MPLA, João Lourenço. However, Lourenço has vowed to crack down on corruption, and appears to be making good on his promises. He has publicly reminded dos Santos of his pledge to vacate the MPLA party leadership (which dos Santos promised to do this year, but he has not yet named a successor)<sup>2</sup>. Lourenço has also acted to curtail an emergent dynasty led by two of dos Santos' children, José Filomeno dos Santos and Isabel dos Santos. José Filomeno was not only dismissed from his post as the director of Angola's sovereign wealth fund. He has also been charged with the massive fraud that occurred under his tenure<sup>3</sup>. And Isabel (who was once celebrated as the African continent's first female billionaire—allegedly a testament to her business acumen as opposed to personal connections) was dismissed from her post as director of Angola's state-owned oil firm, Sonangol, on 15 November 2017<sup>4</sup>.

### Robert Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe 1980-2017

Coincidentally, the same day that Isabel dos Santos was fired from Sonangol as part of Lourenço's anti-corruption measures, another African leader's reign also came to an end: Robert Mugabe was placed under house arrest by the military, and a few days later, on November 21, he resigned as president of Zimbabwe after 37 years in power.

Like dos Santos, Mugabe fought in his country's anti-colonial struggle. The fight against the Rhodesian state's white-minority rule ended in 1979, and Mugabe, considered a war hero and a senior Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) party leader, became the prime minister in 1980. (Later, ZANU merged with another party, and



changed to its current name, Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front, ZANU-PF).

With the elimination of a common enemy (Ian Smith's Rhodesian regime), ethnic divisions flared up in Zimbabwe between the two main tribal groups<sup>5</sup>, the Shona and Ndebele. This escalated to violent conflict and the *gukurahundi* between 1983-1987, in which Ndebele civilians were massacred by the national army. Land reform remained a major issue, and in 2000 war veterans began invading white-owned farms to reclaim the land from which natives had been dispossessed under colonialism. Initially reluctant, Mugabe ultimately supported the land invasions and legalized the occupations<sup>6</sup>. However, as a result of economic crisis (partly stemming from structural adjustment programs implemented in the late 1990s) the situation in Zimbabwe was worsening, particularly following the 2009 hyperinflation that rendered Zimbabwean currency useless.

Even as popular support for Mugabe waned, opposition parties failed to unseat ZANU-PF. Ultimately it was the military, led by Mugabe's former allies, that unseated him. In recent years, Mugabe's much younger wife Grace wielded considerable influence in the government and was preparing to be Mugabe's successor in upcoming elections. In early November 2017, Mugabe (allegedly at Grace's urging) began firing senior party officials, including vice president and long-time ally Emmerson Mnangagwa, precipitating the military action. For eight tense days in November

2017, the military held Mugabe under house arrest, ultimately leading to his resignation and the installation of Mnangagwa as interim president. Elections will take place in July of this year.

### What next?

Does the unseating of two of the longest-serving rulers in sub-Saharan Africa indicate a more democratic future? Some commentators have expressed doubts about actual regime change, arguing that the deposition of particular individuals is merely a way for ruling parties to appear to take action against corruption, while maintaining power<sup>7</sup>. Indeed, Mugabe is still considered a respected hero of Zimbabwe's liberation war, which perhaps explains the generous 'golden parachute' he has been granted upon leaving office. ZANU-PF still controls Zimbabwe, and Mnangagwa—known in Zimbabwe as 'the crocodile', a reference to both his famed cunning and his role in the massacre of Ndebele civilians<sup>8</sup>—is hoping to win the upcoming elections. There is also speculation that General Constantino Chiwenga, who led the military movement against Mugabe and has been installed as vice-president, is moving deeper into politics. Likewise, in Angola the MPLA is still the ruling party. But there seems to be evidence that if the incumbent parties are to remain in power, they must abide more closely to democratic ideals, particularly in terms of ending corruption and nepotism.

<sup>1</sup> Soares de Oliveira, R. (2015) *Magnificent and Beggar Land: Angola Since the Civil War*. Auckland Park, SA: Jacana Media

<sup>2</sup> Mendes, C., Almeida, H. (16 March 2018) *Angola's Dos Santos May Delay Stepping Down as Party Leader*. Bloomberg <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-03-16/angola-s-dos-santos-gives-dates-for-new-party-leader-mfm-says>

<sup>3</sup> BBC News (26 March 2018) *José Filomeno dos Santos named suspect in \$500m fraud case*. BBC News <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-43544327>

<sup>4</sup> Krauss, C. (15 Nov 2017) *Angolan Leader Ousts Predecessor's Daughter as Oil Chief*. The New York Times <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/15/business/energy-environment/angola-oil.html>

<sup>5</sup> In reality, these are not two tribes but two language groupings made up of multiple tribes. The dichotomy between Shona and Ndebele is a legacy of the British colonial system. (personal communication with Zimbabwean anthropologist Mbongeni Ngulube, March 2018)

<sup>6</sup> Hanlon, J. (29 November 2017) *Land Reform is a Zimbabwe Success Story*. The Conversation. <https://theconversation.com/land-reform-is-a-zimbabwe-success-story-it-will-be-the-basis-for-economic-recovery-under-mnangagwa-88205>

<sup>7</sup> Cheeseman, N. (10 December 2017) *Five Tough Lessons Learnt This Year About Democracy in Africa*. The Nation. <https://www.nation.co.ke/oped/opinion/-Five-tough-lessons-learnt-this-year-about-democracy-in-Africa-/440808-4221482-1uitefz/index.html>

<sup>8</sup> Graham-Harrison, E. (24 November 2017) *Emmerson Mnangagwa: The 'Crocodile' Taking Power in Zimbabwe*. The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/nov/24/emmerson-mnangagwa-crocodile-power-zimbabwe-robert-mugabe>

# Alumni panel

## Nadeem Abu Shaikah GOV 2011-2012 | Palestine

**Where do you work?** I am a protection Officer at ACTED organization, West Bank, Palestine, working in humanitarian assistance program targeting the affected Palestinian population in conflict areas, including emergency responses to the affected people, groups and families. I am also in charge of conducting community protection assessments, identifying the vulnerable communities and affected groups, and designing humanitarian response plans for humanitarian interventions.

**How did the IOB experience affect your life/ career?** My study at IOB has significantly contributed to my career development and especially to my current work as humanitarian protection officer at ACTED organization. It has provided me with relevant knowledge and skills to accomplish and perform the tasks that have been assigned to me in a very good manner.



**Which country are you supporting during the Football World Cup?** Spain, Belgium or France will win.

**If you were the director of a research fund, what is a research question that you would agree to finance?** Palestinian-Israeli conflict from human rights-based approach and justice perspective.

## Chrispine Botha GLOB 2015-2016 | Malawi

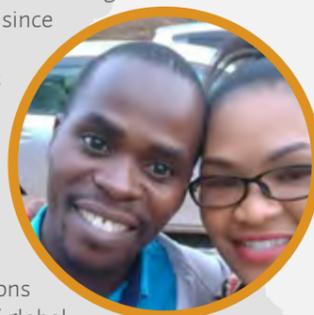
**Where do you work?** I am working in a consortium of International NGOs. The goal of the programme, "Breaking the Cycle of Humanitarian Assistance and Enhancing Shock Responsive Capacity in Malawi" is for 43,091 households to be more resilient to climate-related shocks such as droughts and floods. My role is to provide overall technical leadership and capacity building to partner organizations in implementing resilience activities to improve household productive capacity, reduce negative coping strategies and increase the household asset base. I coordinate commodity market price assessments to determine the food basket value for the unconditional cash transfers, manage cash transfers delivery service providers and ensure that households and communities implement climate smart agriculture and catchment conservation practices to qualify for the conditional cash transfers.

**How did the IOB experience affect your life/ career?** I recognize IOB as a turning point in my life and career because since I left IOB I always stand out everywhere I compete. IOB trained me to always recognize heterogeneities even when dealing with homogenous situations; to always look for polycentricism while also keeping an eye on the context. IOB made me a complete brand, whose edge is built around being the extra-mile thinker. I amaze my team with my high regard for gender, my emphasis on evidence-based programming, my ability to recognize local institutions and their indigenous knowledge and my blending of global perspective with local solutions. I have had the privilege to have very attractive job offers from five international agencies since I left IOB.

**If you were the director of a research fund, what is a research question that you would agree to finance?** Main question: "To what extent do beneficiaries of resilience-building support, as part of the emergency response, achieve positive gains in terms of sustained food production, reduced negative coping strategies, increased assets, and adaptive/recovery capacity in comparison to those who receive just the emergency support?" Sub-question: "Is the investment in complementary resilience activities worth it in the sense of reducing the cost of humanitarian operations over time?"

**Which country are you supporting during the World Cup Football?**

I am supporting Belgium.



## Wilberforce Tumwesigye GOV 2010-2011 | Uganda

**Where do you work?** I am working as a Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer in Rwebitaba Zonal Agricultural Research Development Institute (ZARDI). ZARDI sets out to identify demand from partners (extension workers, farmer organisations and other development partners) and pull technical knowledge of National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs) and other researchers to develop appropriate technologies, information and methods. I am responsible for designing tools for data collection, storage, analysis and report writing.

**How did the IOB experience affect your life/ career?** I appreciate the hands-on training in research methods I and II from IOB. I cannot forget the many policy reports I authored while at IOB that enhanced my writing and presentation skills. These skills are key in my current job at NARO. While at IOB, I learnt to interact with people from different cultures and NARO being a national organization is equally composed of people with diverse ideologies. I find this very exciting to work with a lot of diversity to achieve national targets that are sometimes prone to both political influence and interference. On a personal note, I am multi-skilled with the ability to interpret people's problems and provide practical options fitting the existing conditions anywhere in the world.



**If you were the director of a research fund, what is a research question that you would agree to finance?** I would largely fund research to generate innovations for mitigating the effects of climate change which is a reality in Sub Saharan Africa (SSA). Given that agriculture constitutes the largest share of the livelihoods of the majority yet most of it is still at subsistence level only depending on rain. This means that the population in SSA is vulnerable with minimal chances of recovery from any slight cause of interference.

**Which country are you supporting during the Football World Cup?** I support Germany but Spain could also win the Football World Cup. Anyway, soccer is soccer!

## Rehnuma Ferdous DEM 2012-2013 | Bangladesh

**Where do you work?** I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Science at the Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University in Bangladesh.

**How did IOB experience affect your life/ career?** My Master degree in Development Evaluation and Management advanced my theoretical knowledge, increased my research capabilities. Additionally, studying at IOB also provided excellent networking opportunities and made me confident to be globally connected and to contribute in the current debate in the development arena.

**If you were the director of a research fund, what is a research question that you would agree to finance?** My



key research area is environmental governance and from my experience I think human-human interactions and its impact on governability need to be thoroughly researched. Additionally, thorough research on social energy for the self-organization of sustainable human-nature relations is undoubtedly important for ensuring environmental sustainability.

**Which country are you supporting during the Football World Cup? Who do you think will win?** I am going to support Germany and hope it will win.

# Going global: alumni research internship

In the framework of the IOB Going Global programme, IOB alumnus Valera Saenko was invited to Mzumbe University to participate in a research project on 'Contract farming in sugar cane farming', supervised by Dr. Jennifer Kasanda Sesabo. Valera was involved in the research design, data collection and data analysis of the project. Additionally, he also presented a workshop on Qualitative analysis using Nvivo software for interested Mzumbe staff.

*It was my first time going to Africa, let alone doing a real field research in development. At first I was quite nervous but also very excited to visit Tanzania. Upon arrival I have received a very warm welcome from the Mzumbe University so I felt instantly at home there. The field work was organised quickly and in no time I was conducting my first focus group discussions that gave great insight. People in the villages were very open and were very much willing to provide as much interesting information about their lives and their work. While the internship was indeed filled with both data gathering and a lot of desk research, I still had the opportunity to see the beautiful country itself, visit a national park to see the wild animals, talk to great people that live there. I also had a chance to stay in Dar Es Salaam for a few days where I could transition back to the usual city life, visit a few museums, cafes and spend some time on the beach. Of course I also took this time to finish my report. This internship gave me great experience in both professional and personal aspects and I hope this was not the last time I visit Tanzania.*



IOB alumnus Valera Saenko during field visit



Mzumbe University campus

# Opportunities

## IOB Conference Governance, Peace and Development in Burundi

5-6  
July

On 5 and 6 July 2018, IOB organises the conference "Governance, Peace and Development in Burundi". The conference will bring together researchers from different social science disciplines to present and discuss academic research related to Burundi.

Registration from 16 April onwards via website:  
[www.uantwerpen.be/burundi2018](http://www.uantwerpen.be/burundi2018)

## Decolonizing and mixing research approaches and methods Graduation

On Monday 18 June 2018 (9-5.30 p.m.) IOB is hosting a one-day seminar on "Decolonizing and mixing research approaches and methods". The seminar will provide participants with epistemological and methodological insights into the 'third paradigm' and the 'decolonization movement' in the Social Sciences. Interest in mixing and decolonizing methodologies in contemporary social research has arisen both from context and practice, and from theoretical and epistemological concerns.

The morning session will be open to both pre- and post-doctoral scholars in the Social Sciences who are interested in mixed/multi and 'decolonized' methodologies. The afternoon session will only be open to IOB PhD Students. More information and programme on the IOB website.

To register kindly confirm your presence by email to Katleen Van pellicom ([katleen.vanpellicom@uantwerpen.be](mailto:katleen.vanpellicom@uantwerpen.be)).

## UAntwerp Summer University

This summer, the University of Antwerp offers several highly qualitative courses within the areas of excellence of the University of Antwerp and its partners. Summer school topics cover almost all disciplines offered at the University of Antwerp, ranging from health sciences over design sciences to social sciences. The target group varies between summer schools and may consist of students, researchers or working professionals.

More information on the website:

<https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/education/international/international-students/antwerp-summer-university/>

18 June



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