



2015 BHEARD Scholar
Alexander Dunbar

Profile

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| Country of Study: | Kenya |
| University: | University of Nairobi |
| Department: | Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies |
| Student Position: | Graduate Research Assistant—M.Sc. |
| Hometown: | Gbonota, Bong County, Liberia |
| Home Institution: | Ministry of Agriculture/Bureau of National Fisheries |
| Home Position: | Fisheries Observer |
| Mentored By: | University: David Mungai, Professor, University of Nairobi |

Research Area: Environmental Governance

BHEARD PROGRAM START DATE: September 2015

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION: B.Sc., Economics, African Methodist Episcopal University, Liberia

RESEARCH INTERESTS: Alexander is interested in governance and sustainable fisheries development. His research interest focuses on struggles over fisheries resources and livelihoods of adjacent communities. He draws on multidisciplinary theory and methods to investigate resilience, vulnerability, adaptation, and governance in small-scale fisheries.

Artisanal fisheries in Liberia provide means of livelihood for about 33,121 fishers and processors of which 60 percent are women. The sector provides more fish for local consumption and it is less environmentally damaging (less bycatch) but present more challenging management context due to its diversification, e.g., numerous landing sites some in remote areas, different fish species and different gears.

The sector is an open access under an informal management system headed by a the sea chief, a situation that encourages growing participation making communities excessively dependent on fisheries resources causing conflict among users, encouraging Illegal Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) activities threatening the sustainability of the sector leading to a situation known as tragedy of the commons. Good governance of the sector will encourage sustainable use and promote food security.

PERSONAL STATEMENT: After his studies, Alexander will like to utilize his skills in working with the artisanal fishermen in Liberia for the sustainable utilization of the fisheries. This will include working to formally structure the informal self-organizing system of the artisanal fishermen, their ways of communication, information sharing, and development of rules of reciprocity for the sustainability of the fisheries resources.

WHEN I AM NOT WORKING I ENJOY: Alexander strongly desires building a professional career through higher education, and working within a multicultural society wherein his dedication to duty is fully executed to achieving the desire maximum results.

Alexander loves to be simple, talk less and think more and always smile. He loves to acquire as much information as he can and use that information whenever the need arises.

If not working, Alexander enjoys spending quality time with his family, going for safari trips to observe nature, and watching movies.