

Dr Kelebogile Mfundisi's Academic Profile

Dr Kelebogile Mfundisi earned her PhD in Geospatial Sciences (Natural Sciences in Geography) from Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at Bonn University in Germany, after winning a scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Service. At Bonn University she studied Water, Soils and Vegetation sciences, Mathematical Modeling, Climate Change, GIS and Remote Sensing as part of the requirement for her PhD. The focus of her Dissertation was on Analysis of Carbon Pools and Human Impacts in the Yala Swamp (Western Kenya): a landscape approach. She worked as a Junior Researcher at the Centre for Development Research, Bonn University and World Agroforestry Centre, Nairobi/Kisumu Kenya as part of her PhD research training. In 1999 she became a qualified Geographic Information Systems (Geoinformatics) professional followed by earning a Master of Environmental Sciences degree in Environmental Systems both at University of New Haven, USA.

After finishing her PhD she returned home to Botswana and worked as a research fellow at the then Harry Oppenheimer Okavango Research Centre on a replacement contract for 4 years (2006-2010). During that time she initiated a proposal to study methane emissions in the Okavango Delta, which won an external grant from USA under START (www.start.org) Global Environmental Change in 2009. She also initiated a concept note and proposal development for The Future Okavango Project sponsored by the German Government (BMBF) that commenced in 2010. Her research fellow contract ended during the same time.

In 2012 she joined the Polytechnic of Namibia in Windhoek as a Senior Lecturer for Master of Integrated Land Management where she lectured on Water Resources Management, Energy Systems Management and Cleaner production. While there, she initiated a proposal writing and research methodology training workshop for Masters Students.

She later joined the Okavango Research Institute (ORI) in August 2014 as a Research Scholar in Physical Geography. Her research interests are on carbon sequestration and cycling biogeochemistry, soil nutrients dynamics, aquatic biology, hydraulic modeling, global environmental and climate change, landscape dynamics, sustainable biomaterial energy systems, applied GIS and Remote Sensing. She is currently working on: Carbon Sequestration, Clean Cookstoves and Climate Change Benefits; Mapping inundation patterns, landuse/landcover changes in Boteti River/Lake Ngami systems; Assessing the Vulnerability of *Sitatunga (Tragelaphus spekeii)* to Potential Climate Change events in the Okavango Delta, Botswana. And is a coordinator for the ORI GIS Laboratory

She is a member of the Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials, International Water Association, DAAD Alumni, START alumni, African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment, and INTECOL.

She has publications on reputable journals both individually and as co-author. And enjoys working out during her spare time. In 1996 she reached the peak of Mount Kinabalu in Malaysia, the highest mountain in South East Asia.