

BYRON SSEMAMBO – CV 2024

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Entebbe, Uganda.

Summary

Byron Ssemambo is an experienced Conservation and Environment Management Specialist with a wealth of experience exceeding 10 years, showcasing proficiency in Environmental Management, Natural Resources Management, and Conservation Education. His skill set encompasses environmental grants management, monitoring and evaluation, project planning and execution, Environmental Impact Assessment, forest restoration and management, community development, education for sustainability, natural resources management, managing Human Wildlife Conflicts, and wildlife management programs.

As a dedicated Part-time Conservation Technical Lead, Byron actively contributed to Embaka by supporting the Fundraising, Grants, and Monitoring aspects. In his previous role, he immersed himself in full-time work with local communities surrounding African Golden Cats (AGCs) habitats in the Bugoma-Budongo landscape. Here, he played a crucial role in identifying conservation needs, formulating projects for the protection of wildlife and their habitats particularly AGC and ensuring the sustained success of initiatives for Embaka.

Before this community-centric work, Byron served as a Senior Zoologist and Conservation Education Officer at Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary (Chimpanzee Trust). In this capacity, he provided compassionate care for rescued orphan chimpanzees and collaborated on primate research projects with prestigious institutions such as the Max Planck Institute (Germany) and Warwick University (United Kingdom).

Presently, Byron serves as a Biodiversity Specialist with Fauna & Flora (F&F). In this role, he actively contributes to the design and implementation of species-focused conservation activities. His responsibilities include leading efforts in coordinating biomonitoring and Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) mitigation strategies in the Albertine Rift Landscape.

Educationally, Byron holds a Master of Science in Landscape Ecology and Nature Conservation from the University of Greifswald (Germany) and a Master of Science in Education for Sustainability from London South Bank University (United Kingdom). Additionally, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Nkumba University (Uganda) and a Diploma in Wildlife Health and Allied Natural Resource Management from Uganda Wildlife Research and Training Institute (Uganda).

Education (Academic/Professional training)

University of Greifswald (Germany)

Master of Science in Landscape Ecology and Nature Conservation 2020/2022

London South Bank University (United Kingdom)

Master of Science in Education for Sustainability 2018/2021

Nkumba University (Uganda)

Bachelor Science in Environment and Natural Resource Management 2010/2013

Uganda Wildlife Research and Training Institute (Uganda)

Diploma in Wildlife Health and Allied Natural Resource Management 2006/2008

Work experience

Embaka, Uganda

Conservation Technical Lead

Part-time, January/2024 – Present

My responsibilities include providing technical guidance and oversight for conservation projects at Embaka. I design and implement conservation strategies and action plans, coordinate and supervise field activities to ensure project objectives are met, and monitor project progress, making necessary adjustments. I also identify funding opportunities and assist with grant applications, manage grant funds, ensure compliance with donor requirements, and prepare financial reports. Additionally, I collaborate with local communities to promote conservation awareness and sustainable practices, organize and lead workshops, training sessions, and educational programs, and build and maintain relationships with local and international conservation organizations, government agencies, and community groups to facilitate collaboration and information sharing, enhancing overall conservation efforts.

Fauna & Flora International, Uganda

Biodiversity Specialist, Albertine Rift Landscape-Uganda

Full-time, June/2022 – Present

My responsibilities include conducting field surveys and research to monitor biodiversity and ecosystem health, collecting and analyzing data on species populations and habitat conditions, and developing and implementing conservation strategies, such as Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation, particularly with primates. I coordinate conservation projects to protect and restore habitats and species, oversee project activities to ensure timely and effective implementation, and monitor project progress, making necessary adjustments.

I work with local communities to raise awareness about biodiversity conservation by organizing and leading educational workshops, training sessions, and outreach programs. I identify funding opportunities, contribute to grant proposals, manage grant funds, ensure compliance with donor requirements, and prepare financial reports. Additionally, I build and maintain relationships with local and international conservation organizations, government agencies, and community groups, facilitating collaboration and information sharing to enhance conservation efforts.

Furthermore, I prepare detailed reports on research findings, project activities, and conservation outcomes, maintain accurate records and documentation of all project-related activities, contribute to policy development and advocacy efforts to promote biodiversity conservation, and engage with stakeholders to influence conservation policies and practices.

Total Energies, Uganda

Environment & Biodiversity Officer,

Full-time, July/2018 – August/2019

Spearheaded the implementation of an environmental compliance schedule at both company and operational levels. My primary focus was to enforce measures that addressed risks and minimized or prevented adverse impacts on Ugandan wildlife and the environment. Collaborated extensively with partners, local authorities, communities, and relevant organizations to manage environmental compliance and execute the Biodiversity Strategy and its associated Action Plan (BAP) across all company sites. In this role, I played a pivotal part in validating recommendations, commitments, and studies from Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), Environmental Studies, Legal Approvals, etc., ensuring their seamless coordination and implementation at the

site level. I also actively contributed to the delivery of training packages on various environmental and biodiversity issues, both internally and externally. Additionally, I collaborated with other departments within the company, located in the field, to develop new compliance strategies and implement environmental and biodiversity requirements. My involvement extended to participating in inspections and audits to guarantee compliance with the environmental aspects of the Company Management System. Moreover, I engaged in local awareness and education activities concerning Environmental and Biodiversity Management, collaborating with project teams on-site, local authorities, and communities. Throughout my tenure, I ensured the visibility of ongoing environmental and biodiversity compliance activities across the entire company.

Chimpanzee Sanctuary & Wildlife Conservation Trust, Uganda (8 yrs)

Conservation and Education Officer

Full-time, December/2015 – June/2018

Collaborated with entities such as the District Education Office, Born Free Foundation, and Disney Animal Kingdom. My primary focus was promoting environmental conservation in schools and local communities. Worked with 10 schools and communities around chimpanzee habitats in Hoima and Ngamba Island, I assessed conservation needs, devised projects, and provided technical assistance for implementation and evaluation, ensuring sustainability. Played a pivotal role in supporting school conservation clubs in initiating and developing projects, collaborating with Chimpanzee Trust Directors to coordinate evaluation programs like classroom observations and student evaluations. Furthermore, conducted annual environmental training sessions for teachers and local community members to bolster conservation education and sustainable living in areas surrounding forest habitats. This multifaceted approach aimed to create a lasting impact on environmental awareness and conservation practices within the community.

Senior Zoologist and Wildlife Officer, Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary

Full-time November/2009 – November/2015

Spearheaded comprehensive surveys to analyze wildlife populations, habitats, and movement patterns, aiding in the anticipation of population trends. My role extended to actively participating in wildlife-focused conservation education and interpretation programs at the sanctuary. This involved guiding more than 30 school groups, 1500 local community members, and over 4500 tourists annually. In collaboration with international bodies, I conducted community outreach, training, and education programs, with a special emphasis on promoting wildlife conservation, particularly for primates. My responsibilities included designing and maintaining monitoring criteria for various wildlife species, encompassing both flora and fauna. I conducted ecological monitoring, assessed essential conservation values, and identified potential threats, facilitating adaptive management strategies. Furthermore, I played a crucial role in animal husbandry, welfare, and related research activities, including animal behavior monitoring and captive breeding. This comprehensive approach ensured the effective protection and well-being of diverse wildlife species under the sanctuary's care.

Additional Information

Projects

- **Bat Conservation International (2013/2018)**, Principal coordinator overseeing the monitoring of Straw-Colored Fruit Bat migration.
- **Wildlife Clubs of Uganda (2017/2018)**, Regional coordinator focusing on promoting conservation and safeguarding biodiversity, nature, environment, culture, and customs in Uganda's islands.

- **World Parrot Trust** (2013), Coordinated the care, release, and post-release monitoring of 35 African grey parrots confiscated in 2011 from Bulgaria for the World Parrot Trust in 2013, facilitating their reintroduction on Ngamba Island Forest.

Achievements

In 2019, I received the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) scholarship. Notable recognition includes being awarded Employee of the Month at Chimpanzee Trust, Uganda, in March 2018 and February 2017. I also secured the prestigious Commonwealth Scholarship in 2017. Additionally, I received the African Primatological Society Conference Travel Award in 2017, the International Zoo Educators Congress Travel Award in 2016, and the International Primatological Society, USA Charles Southwick Conservation Education Commitment Award in 2015.

Skills

- Possessing strong interpersonal skills, I excel in establishing effective working relationships and collaborating seamlessly with diverse partners on matters related to Environmental Impact Assessment, wildlife, and biodiversity management.
- Additionally, I demonstrate adept group leadership capabilities, efficiently assigning tasks to staff, monitoring work quality and quantity, and providing progress reports on behalf of the supervisor.
- My effective oral and written communication skills allow me to articulate responses to public inquiries and convey information to professionals and team members through reports, data, maps, and presentations.

Knowledge

- Possessing expertise in resource management, Environmental Impact Assessment, human-wildlife conflict management, and principles of ecological sustainability, I have the necessary knowledge to organize and conduct field inspections and surveys. This enables me to actively promote resource and environmental management awareness and education.
- Additionally, I am proficient in using personal computers and various software applications such as QGIS, SPSS, R, word processing, database management, electronic mail, internet, and spreadsheet applications. This proficiency allows me to efficiently prepare correspondence and reports.

Referees

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