



Tuyeni MWAMPAMBA

Home Country
Tanzania

Degree
Post-Doctorate in Ecology

Expertise
Tropical Forest Ecology, Ecosystem Services, Community Participation in Natural Resource Management

Research Focus
Socio-Ecology of Ecosystem Service Potential and Use in Community Managed Forests

Host University
National Autonomous University of Mexico

Fellowship Awarded
2010

Tuyeni is an associate research professor at the Centre of Research in Ecosystems (CIEco) of the National Autonomous University of Mexico at its Campus in Morelia. She acquired her Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from Mt. Holyoke College, USA in 2000 a PhD degree in Ecology from the University of California at Davis, USA in 2009. Between her undergraduate and graduate degree, she worked as an environmental consultant in Tanzania where she obtained a lot of practical experience in the application of social science and development methodologies for rural planning and assessment of social impact.

Today, Tuyeni conducts research primarily in Mexico and Tanzania on the social and ecological implications of forest management by communities. She is working towards developing a stronger link between Mexico and Tanzania researchers, students and practitioners, and hopes to one day lead a field course that explores the socio-ecological similarities between these seemingly disparate nations. Fieldwork is her therapy and her inspiration and she enjoys every moment she can be in her tent, with communities, somewhere away from internet and phones. Her laboratory is slowly growing and she is finding this new phase is her career (as an advisor to students) both demanding and rewarding at the same time.

Interdisciplinary research is Tuyeni's main forte. Direct experience in the field has convinced her that it is impossible to understand forest management in the tropics without simultaneously addressing social and ecological processes. Consequently, her laboratory at CIECo focuses on addressing the social and ecological implications of community management of natural resources. Tuyeni is an active participant in the development of participatory methods for evaluating social and biodiversity impact of natural resource projects. She is also active in scientific societies such as the Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation and in the Africa Section of the Society for Conservation Biology.