

**Brandeis University, 12-16 Feb 2007**

**Outlines and References for Lectures**

*Mohamed I Bakarr, World Agroforestry Centre, Nairobi, Kenya*

**LECTURE 1 – Saving a threatened ecosystem with a development paradigm – the case of West Africa's Upper Guinea Forest**

*Objective: To discuss how a development-oriented approach is helping to save a globally important and threatened ecosystem in West Africa*

Introduction – Upper Guinean forests in a global biodiversity context; biogeographical, historical, ecological and socio-political challenges for conservation

Why a 'development' paradigm for saving the Upper Guinea forest ecosystem

- economic importance of forests – timber, non-timber, and mineral resources
- exploitation and land use patterns in relation to forest cover – subsistence (staples) and commercial (export crops) agriculture

Regional priority-setting for conservation in Upper Guinea – establishing an economic development framework based on forest biodiversity and implications for catalyzing policy change and investment opportunities, including reference to the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

Targeted investments to achieve conservation and development goals – economic tools and policy options

- achieving forest protection through conservation concession in Sierra Leone
- enhancing protected area effectiveness through landscape approaches – economic, policy and institutional innovations for forest management in Liberia

Transboundary conservation

- overview of transboundary conservation targets in Upper Guinea
- potential economic challenges and policy implications

**Mohamed Bakarr**

Prior to joining ICRAF, he served in various positions at Conservation International between 1997 and 2003, and based in Washington, D.C. He is also member and Deputy Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, a volunteer global network of conservation professionals linked to the IUCN Program on Protected Areas based in Gland, Switzerland

Dr. Bakarr has expertise in a broad range of issues related to the tropics, but focuses mainly on linkages among biodiversity conservation, agriculture and human livelihoods in the African rainforest region. His specialty includes tropical mycorrhizae (mutualisms involving plant roots and certain fungi), forest ecology and management, wildlife ecology (with emphasis on primates), and plant-animal interactions. With more than 10 years of experience in the field, he has amassed a wealth of knowledge on the ecology and conservation challenges of Africa's forest ecosystems, particularly those of West Africa, which includes his native Sierra Leone. .

Dr. Bakarr obtained his M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Tropical Biology at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida (USA), and his B.Sc. degree in Biological Sciences from Njala University College, Sierra Leone. In 1991, he was a recipient of the prestigious Pew Research Fellowship, which enabled him to spend a full-academic year working with the Biodiversity Support Program in Washington, D.C., and contributed to publication of a book entitled African Biodiversity: Foundation for the Future published by BSP in 1992.

**Duties**

Dr. Mohamed Bakarr manages ICRAF's growing web of partnerships and alliances, develops science-policy linkages with the global community and fora, and manages relations and communications with our community of investors, partners and clients.