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**School of Geosciences**  
**University of South Florida**  
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**Education**

Ph.D. (Environmental Science – Policy Focus) Oklahoma State University, 2006  
Stillwater OK.

Graduate Certificate: (International Studies) Oklahoma State University, 2006  
Stillwater OK

Graduate Diploma: (Environmental Engineering) University of Witwatersrand, 2012  
South Africa.

M.S. (Geography) Oklahoma State University, 2003  
Stillwater OK.

B.S. (Hons) (Geography and Environmental Management) University of Witwatersrand, 2000  
South Africa

B.S. (Geography and Environmental Management) University of Dschang, 1998  
Dschang, Cameroon.

**Professional Associations**

- National Sustainability Society (Founding Member)
- The FLARE (Forests and Livelihoods: Assessment, Research, and Engagement) network
- Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences
- Association of American Geographers
- Gamma Theta Upsilon Honor Society

**Recognitions**

- Top Ten USF-St. Petersburg campus Faculty Grant Getters, 2024

**Teaching Interests**

My teaching interests are in the following areas of global environment and resource policy and politics: (1) International Resource Policy/Governance; (2) Global Environmental Institutions; (3) International Negotiations, Agreements and Conventions on Resource Issues; (4) Global

Environmental Policy and Politics; (5) Sustainable Development; (6) Society, Politics and the Environment.

## Courses Taught

August 2019–Present: Associate Professor – University of South Florida, St Petersburg.

- Introduction to Environmental Policy (EVR 2861).
- Sustainable Human Systems (EVR 3874).
- Wetland Environments (4027).
- Global Conservation (GEO 4372).
- Environmental Policy and Sustainability (EVR 4873).
- Environmental Science and Policy Project (EVR 4910).
- Geography Senior Seminar (EVR 4971).
- Wetlands, People & Pub Policy (EVR 6876).
- Directed Research (GEO 6918).
- Graduate Seminar in Environmental Policy (EVR 6937).
- Thesis: Masters (EVR 6971).

August 2023–December 2023 (Fulbright Scholar, University of Eswatini (Swaziland)

- Climate Change and the Environment (GEP 632).

August 2013–July 2019: Assistant Professor – University of South Florida, St Petersburg.

- Sustainable Human Systems (EVR 3874).
- Global Conservation (GEO 4372).
- Environmental Politics and Policy (PUP 4203).
- Directed Research (GEO 6918)
- Graduate Seminar in Environmental Policy (EVR 6937).
- Environmental Policy and Sustainability (EVR 4873).
- Introduction to Environmental Policy (EVR 2861).
- Environmental Science and Policy Project (EVR 4910).
- Geography Senior Seminar (EVR 4971).
- Thesis: Masters (EVR 6971).

January 2013–June 2013: Visiting Assistant Professor –Temple University.

- Environment and Society (ENVT/GUS 1051).
- Introduction to Physical Environment (ENVT/GUS 1052).
- Sustainable Environments (ENVT/GUS 0842).

August 2011–December 2012: Visiting Assistant Professor – Philadelphia University.

- Energy Systems and Politics (SUST 200).
- Environmental Policy (SUST 421).
- Sustainable Food Chains (SUST 120).
- Sustainable Planning and Land Use (SUST 204).

August 2007– May 2011: Instructor – Bowling Green State University, Ohio.

Richard Mbatu - CV

- Introduction to Environmental Studies (ENVS 1010).
- Water Resource Management – Environments in Context (ENVS 2300).
- Environmental Problems (ENVS 3010).
- Energy Policy (ENVS 4000).
- Forest Resource Management and Conservation (ENVS 4700).

August 2002–May 2006: Teaching Associate, Oklahoma State University.

- Introduction to Physical Geography (GEOG 1114).
- Introduction to Cultural Geography – TA (GEOG 1113).

## **Academic and Leadership Experiences**

August 2023 – January 2024: Fulbright Scholar – University of Eswatini (Swaziland).

August 2021 – July 2023: Associate Chair, School of Geosciences – University of South Florida.

August 2019 – Present: Associate Professor – University of South Florida St Petersburg.

August 2013 – May 2019: Assistant Professor – University of South Florida St Petersburg.

January 2013 – May 2013: Visiting Assistant Professor – Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

August 2011 – December 2013: Visiting Assistant Professor – Philadelphia University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

### **Community and Service-Learning Activities:**

- Leader: Historic Preservation and Land Use, Fair Mount Park, Philadelphia.
- Leader: Sustainable Urban Farming, Weavers Way Farm, Philadelphia.
- Leader: Sustainable Urban Farming, Mill Creek Farm, Philadelphia.

August 2007– May 2011: Instructor – Bowling Green State University, Ohio.

### **Internship Program Coordinator:**

- Coordinating internship activities for Environmental Studies (Science and Policy) majors and ensuring that the type and quality of internships undertaken by students meet the objectives and goal of the internship program and contributes to the overall mission of the Department.
  - Organizing internship lectures.
  - Collaborating with Campus Job Fair Center and client agencies in identifying suitable internships for students.
  - Collaborating with faculty advisors and internship site supervisors in assessing interns' progress.
  - Evaluating student internship portfolios.
  - Organizing annual presentation of student internship experience.
- Production of *Internship Manual: A Guide for Students, Faculty, and Organizations*.

Richard Mbatu - CV

**Community and Service-Learning Activities:**

- Leader: Sustainable Forest Management Project - Oak Opening, Toledo Metro Parks, Ohio.
- Leader: Water Quality Testing and River Clean-up, Portage River, Pemberville, Ohio.
- Leader: Invasive Species Removal, Winter Garden, Bowling Green, Ohio.
- Leader: Prairies Restoration Project, Bowling Green Parks District, Bowling Green, Ohio.

September 2006: Associate Scholar – Center for World Indigenous Studies, Olympia, Washington.

August 2006-May 2007: RAISE Project – Rural Alliance for Improving Science Education, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK.

**Program Coordinator**

- Served as project coordinator of a US\$3 million NSF-funded Rural Alliance for Improving Science Education (RAISE) project, working with a team of 10 environmental educators (School Teachers) and 10 graduate students (Student Scientists) to involve high school students in environmental studies projects in school districts and communities in Oklahoma.
  - Monitoring activities of Student Scientists and School Teachers.
  - Directing activities of the program to meet the goals of the program.
  - Collecting and analyzing data for the establishment of program priorities.
  - Chairing meetings of Student Scientists and School Teachers.
  - Assessing progress and outcomes of the program.
  - Making regular visits and giving presentations at schools.
  - Giving feedback on program activities to the Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (program director and grant PI), and helping in establishing strategic plans for the program.
  - Producing monthly newsletters on the progress of the program.
  - Producing the annual program report.

January 2003 – December 2006: Dissertation field work – Natural Resources Management and Land Use in the Rain Forest of Cameroon.

- Assessment of environmental impacts of forest loss in southern Cameroon.

May 1999 – August 2000: Consulting – Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of Power Line Transmission on the Prairie ecological landscape in northern Johannesburg, South Africa.

- Worked with a team of honors students at the University of Witwatersrand as consultants for the Guakan-Volcans project.

## Research Interests

I am a political ecologist, with a particular interest in the community, national, and international forest governance and management policies. My research focuses on forest governance/management and policy aspects of sustainable development and climate change, particularly in the Congo Basin in Africa. I analyze human-environment interactions through the lenses of political ecology, the political economy of natural resources, environmental politics, and sustainable development. Specifically, I examine how forest communities and national governments approach forest resource management and climate change in the structure and function of their plans, programs, bilateral and multilateral agreements, and conventions. I have spent the last fifteen years researching ways to reduce the increased emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) caused by deforestation and forest degradation. This work has been done in support of the global initiative known as the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) program, which is a component of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. When COVID-19 prevented me from conducting research in Africa, my research focus and geographic area shifted to coastal resilience to climate change in Florida. My current project on community engagement for resilience aims to understand the needs of Florida's vulnerable coastal communities, to strengthen their resilience to climate-related hazards by implementing nature-based solutions.

## Publications

### Book Project in Progress

Mbatu, R. S. "A Political Ecology of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) in Africa."

### Refereed Journal Articles

#### Submitted

Mbatu, R. S., Mabaso, S., Mabuza\*, C., Tfwala, S., Mamba, F., Masilela, M. (-). "Rural adaptation and resilience to climate change in Eswatini." In review, *Environmental Science and Policy*.

Mbatu, R. S., Wang, P., Alsharif, K. (-). "Engaging communities to co-design nature-based solutions for urban climate change adaptation and resilience." In review, *Local Development and Society*.

Mbatu, R. S., Eliamini\*, F. (-). "A review analysis of REDD+ conflict-related studies: Insights from Africa." In review, *Journal of Nature Conservation*.

**In progress**

- Mbatu, R. S., Cummings\*, C., Hayes\*, J., Christopherson\*, C. (-). "Assessing climate change resilience strategies in Tampa Bay, Florida: A transportation, communication, and food security outlook."
- Royer, E., Wang, P., Jackson, K., **Mbatu, R.**, and Alsharif, K. (-). "Compound flooding along the Dammed Urban Hillsborough River Caused by Hurricanes Helene and Milton."
- Alsharif, K., **Mbatu, R. S.**, Wang, P. (-). "Community-based design using nature-based solutions to meet climate change challenge along urban Hillsborough River, Tampa."
- Eliamini\*, F., **Mbatu, R. S.** (-). "Assessing woodland change in Tanzania's Eastern Arc Mountains using Landsat thematic mapper mixed approaches."

**Published**

- Manu\*, G., Kimengsi, J.N., **Mbatu, R.S.** (2023). Manu, G., Kimengsi, J. N., & Mbatu, R. S. (2023). Responsibilization dynamics in natural resource management: Insights from two protected areas in Cameroon. *Journal for Nature Conservation*, 73, 126402. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2023.126402>. (\*Student)
- Mills\*, C., **Mbatu, R.**, and Elshorbany, Y. (2023). "Determining Methane Uptake in Tropical Agroforestry Soils: A Case for Inclusion in REDD+." *Agroforestry Systems*, 97(4), 573-586. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10457-023-00811-9>. (\*Student)
- Flanery\*, A., **Mbatu, R.**, Johns, R., and Stewart, D. (2022). "Rural community agency in Cameroon: interactions with forest policies and the REDD+ climate change regime." *Forests*, 13(4), 617. (\*Student).
- Mbatu, R.S. (2020). "Discourses of FLEGT and REDD + Regimes in Cameroon: A Nongovernmental Organization and International Development Agency Perspectives." *Forests*, 11(2), 166.
- AnnMarie, G., Nicole, F.S., Harris, A., **Mbatu, R.S.**, Camielle, C., LaSonya, M., Wadlinger, N., and Wendy, M.R. (2020). "Implementing a Cross-Discipline Early Career Faculty Learning Community: A Case Study." *The Journal of Faculty Development*, 34(1), 5-11.
- Flanery\*, A., **Mbatu, R.**, Johns, R., and Stewart, D. (2019). "Heterogeneity and Collective Action: Community Integration Appraisal for REDD+ Forest Management Implementation." *Small-scale Forestry*, 1-17. (\*Student)
- Gruber\*, J., **Mbatu, R.**, Johns, R., Dixon, B. (2017). "Measuring conservation success beyond the traditional biological criteria: the case of conservation projects in Costa Rica, Mekong Valley, and Cameroon". *Natural Resources Forum*, 42(1), 19-31. (\*Student).

- Mbatu, R.S. (2017). "Challenges and opportunities of a landscape governance approach to the REDD+ programme: a conservation outlook". *Oryx*, 1-6.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2017). "Analysis of the effects of sectoral and subsectoral forces on forest policy related issues: the case of Cameroon's forest policy sector". *International Forestry Review*, 19(2), 180-191.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2016) "REDD + research: Reviewing the literature, limitations and ways forward". *Forest Policy and Economics* 73(1), 140–152.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2016). "Linking the global to the national: Examining the influence of international environmental agreements on Cameroon's forest policy". *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics*, 16(4), 465-492.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2015) "Domestic and international forest regime nexus in Cameroon: Assessing the effectiveness of REDD+ policy design in the context of the climate change regime". *Forest Policy and Economics*, 52(1), 46–56.
- Mbatu, R.S. and Otiso, K.M. (2012). "Chinese Economic Expansionism in Africa: A Theoretical Analysis of the Environmental Kuznets Curve Hypothesis in the Forest Sector in Cameroon". *African Geographical Review*, 31(2), 142-162.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2009). "Forest Policy Analysis Praxis: Modeling the Problem of Forest Loss in Cameroon". *Forest Policy and Economics* 11(1), 26-33.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2009). "Forest Exploitation in Cameroon (1884-1994): An Oxymoron of Top-down and Bottom-up Forest Management Policy Approaches". *International Journal of Environmental Studies*, 66(06), pp. 747 - 763.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2009). "Deforestation in the Buea-Limbe and Bertoua Regions in Cameroon (1984-2000): Modernization, World- Systems, and Neo-Malthusian Outlook". *GeoJournal*, 75(5), 443-458.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2007). "Environmental Injustice and the Ogoni and Bakola-Bagyeli Pygmy Peoples: Experiences from Nigeria and Cameroon". *Fourth World Journal* 7(2), 40-53.

### **Edited Book Chapters**

- Mbatu, R.S. (2014). "Globalization and Deforestation: An Examination of the Environmental Effects of Direct Investment in the Forest Sector in Cameroon". In C.N.B. Herrera (Ed), *Deforestation: Conservation Policies, Economic Implications and Environmental Impact* (pp. 3-34). New York, New York: Nova Publishers, ISBN: 978-1-62948-241-5.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2012). "Obstacles to a Conceptual Framework for Sustainable Forest Management under REDD in Central Africa: A Two-Country Analysis". In J. J. Diez (Ed), *Sustainable*

Richard Mbatu - CV

*Forest Management: Case Studies* (pp. 27-50). InTech Publisher, ISBN: 978-953-51-0511-4.

## Book Reviews

Mbatu R.S. (2015). “Transforming the Frontier: Peace Parks and the Politics of Neoliberal Conservation of Southern Africa,” Bram Buscher, Durham, NC: Duke University Press, pp. 312, 2013, *African Studies Quarterly*, 15(14), 93-95.

Mbatu, R.S. (2010). “Trade, Globalization and Sustainability Impact Assessment: A Critical Look at Methods and Outcomes,” edited by Paul Ekins and Tancrède Voituriez, Earthscan Publishers, London and Sterling, VA, 348 pp, 2009, *International Journal of Environmental Studies*, 67(2), 271-273.

Mbatu, R.S. (2010). “If a Tree Falls: Rediscovering the Great American Chestnut,” D.J. Buege, Xlibris Corporation, Philadelphia, pp.186, 2008, *International Journal of Environmental Studies*, 67(1), 93

Mbatu, R.S. (2010). “The Balance of Nature: Ecology's Enduring Myth,” John Kricher, Princeton University Press, Princeton & Oxford, pp. 237, 2009, *International Journal of Environmental Studies*, 67(1), 94-95.

## Reports

Mbatu R.S., et al. (2021). The United Nations’ environment flagship report - Global Environment Outlook for Youth (GEO-6 for Youth) Lead Author.  
(file:///C:/Users/mbatu/Downloads/G4Y.pdf)

## Grant Proposals, Funding and Awards

Mbatu, R.S. (PI), Wang, P. (Co-PI), Alsharif. K. (Co-PI), Arias, M, (Co-PI), Tao, Ran. (Co-PI), O’Leary, H. (Co-PI). CIVIC-PG Track A: Equitable, Co-designed Opportunities for Empowered Nature-Based Alluvial Environmental Resilience (ECO ENABLER) (\$75,000 – **Not Funded**)

Wang, P. (PI), **Mbatu, R.S.** (Co-PI), Alsharif. K. (Co-PI) (2023). Community-Based Design Using Nature-Based Solutions To Meet Climate Change Challenges Along Urban Hillsborough River, Tampa (The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Gulf Research Program – NESEM-GRP, Phase 2. Grant Number: SCON-10000896. \$990,000 – **Funded**)

Mbatu, R.S. (PI), Collins, J. (Co-PI), (2023). REU Site: Program in Interdisciplinary Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation Research and Training (PIACCART). (National Science Foundation (NSF). Grant Number (FAIN): 2244380. \$428,885 – **Funded**)



Richard Mbatu - CV

- Mbatu, R.S. (2023). Rural Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change in Eswatini. (U.S. Department of State - Fulbright U.S. Scholar Grant. Grant Number PS00355598. \$51,150 – **Funded**)
- Wang, P. (PI), Mbatu, R.S. (Co-PI), Arias, M., Crisman, T., Alsharif, K., Sabia, T. (2022). Planning for Community-engaged Design of Climate-resilient Nature-based Solutions along Vulnerable Hillsborough River, Tampa, Florida. (The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Gulf Research Program – NESEM-GRP, Phase 1: Planning Grant. Grant Number 2000013793. \$100,000 – **Funded**)
- Mbatu, R.S. (PI). Collins, J. (Co-PI) (2021). REU Site: Program in Interdisciplinary Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation Research and Training (PIACCART). (NSF Grant Proposal Number: 2149878. \$ 479,910 – **Not Funded**)
- Mbatu, R.S. (2018). Forest governance and equity in REDD+ benefit-sharing: a case study of sustainable forest management in the Northwest Region of Cameroon (USFSP Internal Research Grant. \$10,000 – **Funded**)
- Mbatu, R.S. (2017). Civic Learning and the Development of the Citizen Scholar: The University of South Florida St. Petersburg Experience (The Center for Civic Engagement Faculty Course Development Grant. \$1000 – **Funded**)
- Mbatu, R.S. (2017). Faculty International Travel Grant. (USF System Research Council Grant. \$2500 – **Funded**)
- Njoh, A. (PI). Mbah, A., Ntumngia, F., Alsharif, K., Akiwumi, F., Ananga, E., **Mbatu, R.S**, Deba, E. (Co-PIs) (2016). Remittances from Africans in the United States: The Self-Help Ethos and Poverty Eradication in Africa. (USF Patel Centre for Global Sustainability Grant. \$50,000 – **Not Funded**)
- Mbatu, R.S. (2016). Department of Environmental Science, Policy & Geography Junior Faculty Research Support Award – \$500.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2016). Department of Environmental Science, Policy & Geography Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2015). Assessing the Impact of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation on the Millennium Development Goals and Beyond 2015: A Comparative Analysis between Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo – the Japanese Influence. (Social Science Research Council (SSRC) Abe Fellowship. \$15,000 – **Not Funded**).
- Mbatu, R.S. (2015). Department of Environmental Science, Policy & Geography Junior Faculty Research Support Award – \$1000.

Richard Mbatu - CV

- Mbatu, R.S. and Flanery, A.E. (2015). Community-Based Forest Conservation under REDD+: Assessing the Role of Integration and Collective Agency in the Korup National Park, Cameroon (The Smithsonian Center for Tropical Forest Science - Forest Global Earth Observatories (CTFS-ForestGEO) research grant. \$15,000 – **Not Funded**).
- Mbatu, R.S. (2015). Global Warming, Climate Change and Sea Level Rise: The Impact on Pinellas County (50 Great Events Grant Program. \$1500 – **Funded**)
- Mbatu, R.S. (2015). Assessing the Impact of Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Degradation on the Millennium Development Goals and Beyond 2015 in Cameroon (USFSP Internal Research Grant. \$9,954.00 – **Funded**)
- Mbatu, R.S. (2015). Junior Faculty Research Support Award – University of South Florida St Petersburg – \$500.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2014). Junior Faculty Research Support Award – University of South Florida St Petersburg – \$1000.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2013). “Assessing the Impact of REDD+ on MDGs and Beyond in Central Africa: The Case of Cameroon (New Researcher Grant - USF System \$10,000 – **Not Funded**)
- Mbatu, R.S. (2010). Teaching and Learning Community Award – Bowling Green State University – \$500.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2006). Dissertation Research and Travel Awards – Oklahoma State University – \$200.
- Mbatu, R.S. (1999). United Nations DAFI-Scholarship for Graduate Studies – University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

## Professional Presentations

- Mbatu, R.S. (2025). Rural adaptation and resilience to climate change in Eswatini. Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, March 24-28, 2025, Detroit, Michigan.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2024). Community-based design using nature-based solutions to meet climate change challenges along urban Hillsborough River, Tampa. National Sustainability Society (NSS) (inaugural) conference 9-11 September 2022, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2022). Rural community agency in Cameroon: interactions with forest policies and the REDD+ climate change regime. The Forests and Livelihoods: Assessment, Research, and Engagement (FLARE) network annual meeting 7-10 October 2022, University of Notre Dame, Rome, Italy.

- Mbatu, R.S. (2021). The Call for a Broader Scope for the REDD+ Program: The Landscapes Governance Approach, 7th Annual FLARE Meeting, Virtual via Global Landscapes Forum, November 5th & 6th, 2021.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2021). Invited guest lecture - Environmental Policy: Decision-making and Climate Change. The Social Action Group in Criminal Justice (SAGCJ), 19 March, 2021, University of South Florida.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2019). Forest governance and equity in REDD+ benefit-sharing: a case study of sustainable forest management in the northwest region of Cameroon. The Forests and Livelihoods: Assessment, Research, and Engagement (FLARE) network annual meeting 23-25 August 2019, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2019). Global Environment Outlook: A Youth Perspective. Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS) Annual Conference, June 27-29, 2019, Orlando, FL.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2018). Nongovernmental Organization and International Development Agency Influence on the Congo Basin Forests: Discourses of FLEGT and REDD+ Regimes in Cameroon. The Forests and Livelihoods: Assessment, Research, and Engagement (FLARE) network annual meeting 17-20 October 2018, University of Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2018). Civic Learning and the Development of the Citizen Scholar: The University of South Florida St. Petersburg Experience. Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, April 10 - 14, 2018, New Orleans.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2018). Environmental Education and Sustainable Development: A discourse of Existing Frameworks; In Panel discussion – Environmental Literacy across the Curriculum: Challenges and Opportunities in Higher Education. Sixth Annual Conference of the Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance (SEEA), 16-18 March, 2018, St. Petersburg, FL.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2018). Rural Community Agency in Cameroon: Interactions with Forest Policies and the REDD+ Climate Change Regime. Fourteenth International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic & Social Sustainability, 17-19 January 2018, the Cairns Institute, James Cook University, Cairns, Australia.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2017). Challenges and opportunities of a landscape governance approach to the REDD+ program: A conservation outlook. The 28th IUFRO Conference for Specialists in Air Pollution and Climate Change Impacts on Forest Ecosystems. 22-26 October 2017, Fuchu, Tokyo, Japan.

Richard Mbatu - CV

- Mbatu, R.S. (2017). The Socio-economic, Political and Environmental Impacts of China's Resource Diplomacy in Africa. St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs, February 15 -17, 2017, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2017). REDD+ Research: Reviewing the Literature, Limitations, and Ways Forward. Thirteenth International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic & Social Sustainability, 19-21 January 2017, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- Mbatu, R.S. and A.E. Flanery\*. (2016). Fieldwork Experience Abroad: Collecting Data for Forest Community Integration and Collective Agency in Korup National Park Cameroon: Interactions with Forest Policies and the REDD+ Mechanism. School of Earth Sciences Faculty Colloquium, USF-Tampa, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2016). REDD++ and Conservation: A Balanced View of Challenges and Opportunities for Forest Governance Beyond Forests. Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, March 29-April 2, San Francisco, CA.
- Mbatu, R.S. and E. Coleman\*. (2016). Assessing the Impact of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) on the Sustainable Development Goals in Cameroon. Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS) Annual Conference, June 8-11, Washington DC. (\*student)
- Mbatu, R.S. (2015). Non-governmental Organization and International Development Agency Influence on Forest Management Policy: A Discursive Analysis of FLEGT-VPA and REDD+ Regimes in Cameroon. International Studies Association – South (ISA-South) Conference, October 23rd and 24th, Tampa, Florida.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2015). Linking the global to the national: An application of the international pathways model to examine the influence of international environmental agreements on Cameroon's forest policy. Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS) Annual Conference, June 24-27, San Diego, California.
- Mbatu, R.S. (2015). Analysis of sectoral and subsectoral forces and configurations on policy outcomes: the case of Cameroon's forest policy sector. Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, April 21-25, Chicago, IL.
- Burford\*, M.P., Smoak, J.M., Moyer, R.P. and **R.S. Mbatu** (2015). Examining Organic Carbon Burial in Charlotte Harbor Mangrove Forests, Bay Area Scientific Information Symposium, St. Petersburg, FL. (\*student)
- Burford\*, M.P., Smoak, J.M., Moyer, R.P. and **R.S. Mbatu** (2015). Carbon sequestration in the mangrove forests of Charlotte Harbor and implications for conservation and restoration, Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Conference, Coral Springs, FL. (\*student)
- Burford\*, M, Smoak, J.M., **Mbatu, R.S.** and R.P. Moyer (2015). Examining the potential for carbon sequestration in mangrove forests in Charlotte Harbor and the implications for

Richard Mbatu - CV

conservation and restoration. All Scientists Meeting, Florida Coastal Everglades Long Term Ecological Research, Miami. (\*student)

Flanery\*, A.E. and **R.S. Mbatu** (2015). Forest community integration and collective agency in Korup national park, Cameroon: interactions with forest policies and the REDD+ mechanism, Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, April 21-25, Chicago, IL. (\*student)

Mbatu, R.S (2014). International and domestic forest regime nexus in Cameroon: An economic-based assessment of the effectiveness of REDD+ policy design strategy in the context of the climate change regime (Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, April 8-12, Tampa Florida).

Mbatu, R.S (2014). Seeing REDD in the Congo Basin: The Case of Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo (Florida Society of Geographers (FEG) Annual Meeting, February 7-9, Embassy Suites Orlando, Lake Buena Vista South, Hosted by University of South Florida St Petersburg).

Mbatu, R.S (2013). Globalization and Deforestation: An Examination of the Environmental Effects of Direct Investment in the Forest Sector in Cameroon (Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS) Annual Conference, June 19-22, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania).

Mbatu, R.S (2012). Obstacles to a Conceptual Framework for Sustainable Forest Management under REDD in Central Africa: A Two-Country Analysis (Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS) Annual Conference, June 21-24, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, California).

Mbatu, R.S (2010). Deforestation in the Buea-Limbe and Bertoua Regions in Cameroon (1984-2000): Modernization, World- Systems, and Neo-Malthusian Outlook (Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS) Annual Conference, June 17-20, Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon).

Mbatu, R.S (2010). Spatial Analysis of Deforestation in Buea/Limbe Region of Cameroon in Relation to Ethnographic Policy Analysis (Central Africa Forest and Institutions (CAFI) annual conference, May 6-8, University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, Michigan).

Mbatu, R.S (2009). Community Forests Management in Cameroon: An Oxymoron of Top-down and Bottom-up approaches. (Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS) Annual Conference, Oct. 8-11, University of Wisconsin Madison, Wisconsin).

Mbatu, R.S (2009). Benefit cost of Renewable Energy: Ethanol from Biomass (Lakeside Chautauqua, Ohio).

Mbatu, R.S (2008). Global Perspective: International Environmental Problems (Bowling Ohio Senior Center).

## Richard Mbatu - CV

- Mbatu, R.S (2008). Earth Week Activities: Panelist – The 11<sup>th</sup> Hour: International perspective on Global Climate Change (Bowling Green State University).
- Mbatu, R.S (2008). Globalization and Environmental Reforms. Focus the Nation Forum (Bowling Green, Ohio - Bowling Green State University).
- Mbatu, R.S (2007). Africa In Three Dimensions: The Good, the Bad, the Beautiful. Geography Awareness Week (Perkins-Tryon High School, Oklahoma).
- Mbatu, R.S (2006). Measuring the Rate of Forest Loss in Cameroon: The Limbe/Buea and Bertoua Case Studies, Southwestern Division of the Association of American Geographers (Norman, Oklahoma).
- Mbatu, R.S (2005). Pollution of Surface and Ground Water: Policy and Management Practices in the United States. Seminar Presentation, Maricopa College, Arizona.

### **Other Professional Activities**

- 2024: Panelist: National Science Foundation (NSF) SBE Research Experiences for Undergraduates Sites (SBE REU Sites) Advisory Panel for the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate.
- 2024: Alum Mentor for the 2024 Sub-Saharan Africa Fulbright Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO).
- 2021: Completed the Online Instructor Certification (OIC) course through the USF certified online educator program.
- 2018: Sunshine State Teaching and Learning Conference – Faculty Learning Community Round Table discussion of the Text “How Learning Works” by Ambrose et al., St Petersburg, Wednesday, January 31 – Friday, February 2, 2018
- 2015: Fulbright Workshop: Strategies for Writing a Fulbright CORE Scholar Application – USF Tampa, Thursday, May 7, 2015.
- 2014: Teaching and Learning Workshop: Instructional Design Strategies – Instructional Materials. Online Learning & Instructional Technology Services. Thursday October 16.
- 2014: Teaching and Learning Workshop: PowerPoint Lecture Capture. Online Learning & Instructional Technology Services. Tuesday October 14
- 2014: Teaching and Learning Workshop: Canvas Quizzes & Assignments. Online Learning & Instructional Technology Services. Friday October 10.

Richard Mbatu - CV

- 2013: Moderator, United Nation's Post-2015 MDG Development Agenda event entitled – "The World We Want" – U.S. Consultations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda." UNA Tampa Bay, Glazer Children's Museum, Tampa, November 19, 2013.
- 2013: Environmental Studies and International/Global Studies: Starting a conversation. A round table discussion to explore the possibility of forming an international studies specialty group within the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS). Annual Conference, June 19-22, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania). (Invited participant)
- 2012: Cultural diversity in the teaching of Environmental Studies. A roundtable discussion to explore ways to increase cultural diversity in the teaching of Environmental Studies. Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS) Annual Conference, June 21-24, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, California. (Invited participant)
- 2012: Teaching and Learning Workshop: Mapping for Outcome Development. A faculty focus group working on the development of concept maps for learning outcomes. Philadelphia University, Philadelphia. (Group member)
- 2012: Writing Program Workshop/Debate in the Writing Classroom: "The Case for Conflict." A faculty focus group working on ideas to improve student writing. Philadelphia University, Philadelphia. (Group member)
- 2011: In attendance: Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS) Annual Conference, June 23-26, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont.
- 2010: In attendance: University System of Ohio Sustainability Conference, Columbus, Ohio.
- 2008: Campus Dialogue on Values Exploration and Engagement, Bowling Green State University.

### **Selected Recent Departmental/University Committees**

- 2025-Present: USF Faculty Senate representative At-Large, St. Petersburg campus.
- 2024-Present: School of Geosciences Committees – Undergraduate Committee; Awards Committee.
- 2020-Present: *Sustainability Studies Program committees* – Curriculum development committee (Member)
- 2022-2023: *School of Geosciences Committees* – Communications committee (Member)
- 2019-2020: *University Committees* – Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) Mu Chi Chapter (Faculty Advisor); Campus Sustainability Working Group (Member); Global Advisory Council

Richard Mbatu - CV

(Member); *Department Committee* – History & Politics Executive Committee (Member); Geosciences T&P Committee (Member)

2018-2019: *University Committees* – Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) Mu Chi Chapter (Faculty Advisor); Campus Sustainability Working Group (Member); Global Advisory Council (Member).

2017-2018: *University Committees* – Faculty Learning Community (FLC) exploration group. (Member); College of Arts and Sciences Scholarship Committee (Member); Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) Mu Chi Chapter (Faculty Advisor); New Sustainability Studies Program Curriculum Development Task Group (Member).

2016-2017: *University Committees* – College of Arts and Sciences Scholarship Committee (Member); Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), international honor society in geography, Mu Chi Chapter (Faculty Advisor); The Environment Living Learning Community (LLC) (Faculty Sponsor); *Department Committees* – Balloting Committee (Chair); Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (Member); Environmental Policy Tenure Track Search Committee (Member).

2015-2016: *University Committees* – College of Arts and Sciences Scholarship Committee (Member); Declaration of Major Planning Committee (Member); Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) international honor society in geography, Mu Chi Chapter (Faculty Advisor); The Environment Living Learning Community (LLC) (Faculty Sponsor); *Department Committees* – Balloting Committee (Chair); Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (Member); Environmental Policy Tenure Track Search Committee (Member).

2014-2015: *Departmental Committees* – Balloting Committee (Chair); Budget Committee (Member); Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (Member).

*University Committees* – Sustainability Forum at USFSP (Participant).

2013-2014: *Departmental Committees* – Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (Member); Annual Review Committee (Alternate Member); Environmental Policy Tenure Track Search Committee (Member). *University Committees* – Clean Energy Resource Conservation Commission (Commissioner); Student Green Energy Fund (Faculty Representative).

### **Other Services**

2022: Coached the 2022 YMCA-Lakewood Ranch branch summer kids' basketball camp.

### **Student Advising**

### **Graduate Students Advised**

**Megan Grove (2022-2024):** Thesis title – “Urban renewal” Surrounding Florida Solar Plants: A Study on Low-Carbon Gentrification (Committee Member – Thesis)



Richard Mbatu - CV

**Faye Ricker:** Dissertation title – Analysis of Rural Energy Systems in Africa: A Feminist Political Ecology Perspective (Committee Member – Dissertation)

**Callie Mills (2017-2020):** Thesis title – Determining Methane Uptake in Tropical Agroforestry Soils: A Case for Inclusion in REDD+. (Advisor – MS Thesis)

**Maryam Arif (2017-2020):** Thesis title – Assessment of the impacts of Land Use Change on Surface Water Quality. (Advisor – MS Thesis)

**Adam Flanery (2013-2016):** Thesis title – Forest Change and Local Perspectives on REDD+ in the Context of Community Forestry around Korup National Park, Cameroon (Advisor – MS Thesis)

**Jessica Gruber (2013-2016):** Thesis title – Analyzing and Mapping of Factors that Influence Success and Failure of Conservation Practice: A Multi-scale Study (Co-advisor – MS Thesis)

**Sydney Alhale (2014-2016):** Thesis title – Who Should Manage Red Snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*) in the Gulf of Mexico? A Study of the Social Dynamics of the Red Snapper Fishery (Committee Member – MS Thesis)

**Todd Waldorf (2015-2016):** Project title – A Water Scarcity Assessment for Rural Outback Town Wilcannia, NSW, Australia (Second Reader – MA Project)

**Coleman Ewell (2015-2016):** Thesis title – Analysis of REDD+ Influence on the UN Sustainable Development Goals: The Case of Cameroon (Advisor – MS Thesis)

**Aleta Kane (2015-2017):** Thesis title – Local and Diverse Economies as a Function of Sustainability: A Review of US Cities (Co-advisor – MS Thesis)

**Peter Killeen (2015-2017):** Project title – Solar Energy Potential and Policy Comparison: State of Florida versus North Carolina (Advisor – MA Project)

## **Graduate Students Currently Advising**

**Filemon Eliamini (2024-Present):** Dissertation title – Assessing the effectiveness of community-based forest management for ecosystem services and sustainable livelihoods in Tanzania (Advisor – Dissertation)

**Natasha Joseph (2022-Present):** Dissertation title – Exploring Spatial Dynamics through the Lens of Women in Rural Haiti (co-Advisor – Dissertation)

**Sierra Raines (2023-Present):** Dissertation title – A Community-based research study on the health-related impacts of climate change and the social coping mechanisms of marginalized communities in Tampa Bay (Committee Member – Dissertation)

Richard Mbatu - CV

**Elizabeth Royer (2023-Present):** Dissertation title – Anthropogenic Influences on Tidal Circulation in McKay Bay, Implications on Resiliency Building Using Nature Based Solutions (Committee Member – Dissertation)

**Gilberto Bradley (2023-Present):** Thesis title – Analyze of the eco-literacy of park visitors in Pinellas County, Florida (Co-Advisor – Thesis)

## External Advisee

**Gordon Manu (2020-2022)** (Technische Universität Dresden, Germany): Thesis title – Governing Forests: Exploring Mechanisms and Outcomes for Protected Area Communities in Cameroon

## Undergraduate Student Research Projects Advised

- Summer 2024
  - **Jakyah Hayes:** Assessing Climate Change Resilience Strategies in Tampa Bay: A Transportation Outlook (REU student from Tallahassee Community College, FL)
  - **Christina Cummings:** Assessing Climate Change Resilience Strategies in At-Risk Communities in Tampa Bay: A Communication Outlook (REU Student from University of South Florida)
  - **Carl Christopherson:** Assessing Climate Change Resilience Strategies in At-Risk Communities in Tampa Bay: A Food Security Outlook (REU student from Seattle University, WA)
  - **Zineb Langhzaoui:** Assessing Climate Change Resilience Strategies in At-Risk Communities in Tampa Bay: A Health Outlook (REU student from Bunker Hill Community College, Boston, MA)
- Spring 2022
  - **Laurel Kerkman:** Silvo-pastoral Farming in Para, Brazil. Honors Thesis
- Fall 2021:
  - **Maya Pappas:** The Effects of South Africa's Drought: Environmental, Social, and Economical. Geography Capstone Project, USF.
- Spring 2017:
  - **James Scott:** Energy Conservation in Florida: The return on investment for energy efficiency projects. Environmental Policy Capstone Project, USF.

## Undergraduate Student Internship Projects Advised

Environmental Science and Policy Majors, Bowling Green State University.

- Spring 2011:
  - **Erin Bork:** Horticulture – Parks, Recreation and Landscape Management at Bowling Green Parks and Recreation, Bowling Green, OH.
  - **Toby Abby:** Data Collection and Analysis at United States Geological Survey (USGS) Ohio Water Science Center, Columbus, OH.
  - **Becky Zimmer:** Management of Water Treatment Systems at Industrial Fluid Management, McClure, OH.
- Summer 2010:

## Richard Mbatu - CV

- **Zachary Freeh:** Horticulture – Parks, Recreation and Landscape Management at Metro Parks, Toledo, OH.
- **Austin Nelson:** Environmental Education and Grassroots Activism at Ohio Citizen Action, Toledo, OH.
- **Mitchell Oster:** Horticulture – Parks, Recreation and Landscape Management at City of Avon Parks, Avon, OH.
- **Patrick Kennedy:** Climate Justice Activism (Urban Defense Project), at Ohio Student Environmental Coalition, Cleveland, OH.
- Summer 2009:
  - **Andrea Parmelee:** Environmental Compliance at Master Chemical Corporation, Perrysburg, OH.
  - **Mary Olive:** Soil and Water Conservation at Trumbull County District, Warren, OH.
  - **Dan Skoglund:** Horticulture – Parks, Recreation and Landscape Management at Bowling Green Parks and Recreation, Bowling Green, OH.
  - **Laura Winbarger:** Environmental Education and Grassroots Activism – Mountain Top Removal, Pollution and Green Energy at Ohio Citizen Action, Toledo, OH.
- Spring 2009:
  - **Melissa Greene:** Policy Issues and Policy Implementation of Natural Resources Use at Greenpeace International.
- Fall 2008:
  - **Christina Coporale:** Marine Biology at Sea World Discovery Aquatic, Orlando, FL.
  - **Teagan Loew:** Tourism and Recreational Activities at National Parks Service: Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Chesterton, IN.
  - **Jazmine Bennett:** Land Conservation, Easements and Land Trusts at Black Swamp Conservancy, Toledo, OH.
  - **Elizabeth Dusky:** Pollution Control and Hazard Management at Geo-Environmental Consortium, Toledo, OH.