



In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Master of Arts
Peter A. Gbelia

Will defend his Master's Capstone Project on

Cookstoves for Liberia

Abstract

According to the World Health Organization, nearly 3 billion people, or almost half the world's population, cook their daily meals indoors over biomass-fueled cooking fires. The resulting Indoor Air Pollution kills 1.6 million people every year. Use of solid fuels in cooking and heating by fast-growing urban populations in the developing world places extreme pressure on resources and the environment and contributes to deforestation and global warming. Fortunately, an Improved Cookstove or ICS can mitigate these and other development issues. Providing a \$30 USD ICS to the 500 million families that cook with an open fire would cost \$15 billion USD. This is the "low hanging fruit" of climate change mitigation and a solvable problem.

SOS MA student Peter Gbelia's Capstone Project takes the form of a project proposal to Nexus Carbon Fund to introduce 50,000 clean burning cookstoves to Liberia to test the hypothesis that these cookstoves can improve health, decrease deforestation and environmental degradation, and help mitigate global warming and climate change. Peter's company, SJedi Green Energy, in the proposal, introduces an innovative business model that creates a commercial market for clean stoves in Liberia and West Africa, reducing trade barriers, promoting consumer awareness, and creating access to large-scale carbon financing. The objective of the proposal is to obtain start-up capital from Nexus to enable initial implementation of this transformative social entrepreneurial project. This innovative proposal demonstrate the feasibility of small-scale project developers designing and implementing an ICS distribution process that is both profitable and sustainable by targeting the least developed, base-of-pyramid customers.

March 11, 2011
1:00 p.m.
GIOS Room 481

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Supervisory Committee:
Professor Douglas Webster (Chair)
Professor Rimjhim Aggarwal (Member)
Professor Aaron Golub (Member)