



BIO - Kamoji Wachiira

Kamoji Wachiira is currently on leave of absence from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Ottawa. Born in Kenya, Kamoji has over 25 years, hands-on experience in international development in Africa, South Asia, and the Caribbean, principally as Senior Specialist and technical adviser in environment and natural resource management. Prior to that, he worked in the Horn and central Africa. His CIDA field experience includes designing and monitoring projects in the Horn of Africa countries. From 1999 to 2002 he was CIDA Head of Aid (i.e., Resident Rep) for Guyana and Suriname. From 2002-2005 he was Lead Specialist and Acting Manager for the Canadian Climate Change Fund responsible for CIDA's greenhouse gas mitigation/carbon sequestration projects, mainly in Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand.

Kamoji Wachiira completed a two-year secondment as Senior Fellow with the Consensus Building Institute (CBI). At CBI he worked with Professor Lawrence Susskind, of the MIT-Harvard Public Disputes Program. Responsibilities at CBI included training in negotiation and mediation, and research on dispute management in conflict resolution, especially in environment and natural resource policy and programs. This included, among others, conducting an extensive, pre-investment conflict assessment field survey in Somaliland and the northern Somalia autonomous region, a highly contested, post-conflict setting.

In 2004-2005 Kamoji Wachiira was interim adviser on global environmental issues to Dr. Wangari Maathai, the 2004 Nobel Peace Laureate and a long-time colleague and fellow advocate for the environment and human rights in Africa. During October-December 2004, he was the head of her Nairobi-based Nobel Secretariat as well as Vice President of Green Belt Movement International. He also was a senior consultant/adviser for the film production team of the highly acclaimed documentary on the Green Belt Movement, "*Taking Root: the Vision of Wangari Maathai*" (see <http://takingrootfilm.com/>).

Kamoji graduated in Botany (B.S., Washington State University) and obtained his M.S. in Forestry (University of Washington) in 1969. After post-graduate work at McGill University in Montreal, he went on to teach at the University of Nairobi (Kenyatta campus) until 1982, when he joined CIDA in Canada.