

BRANCHING OUT

THE US FOREST SERVICE INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM

HIGHLIGHTS

May 2015

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The US Forest Service International Visitor Program (IVP) facilitates participation in a wide variety of professional and educational exchanges, which encourage scientific collaboration and discovery, increase intercultural understanding, and promote cooperation among people of many cultures and countries.

SPOTLIGHT:

VISITOR: MARTIN KABOCHI

Central Appalachian Spruce Restoration Initiative Intern

Please tell us a bit about yourself and your background.

My name is Mart Kabochi. I was born in Nanyuki, Kenya, located on the western slopes of Mount Kenya, right on the equator.

I have always been interested in conservation, forest restoration, and international exchange. While attending St. Mary's Boys Secondary School in Nyeri, I helped found a book club that focused on conservation works. We discussed the great works of Kenyan National Hero, Wangari Maathai, the leader of the Green Belt Movement and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate.



Photo credit: Dave Saville

Through a government sponsorship program, I am now pursuing a degree in Political Science, Psychology and Chinese at the University of Nairobi, the largest collegiate research university in Kenya with over 60,000 students. I am headed into my third year in the University and will finish my degree in 2017.

I am an active member of AISEC, an international not-for-profit organization that promotes youth leadership opportunities and cross-cultural volunteer exchange experiences around the world. I am also a forest conservation and restoration volunteer in Karura Forest, which is an urban forest in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. Due to its location within a growing city, development pressures have been intense. Conservationists, led by Wangari Maathai, have had to fight to protect the forest and now Karura Forest is one of the largest urban gazetted forests in the world.



As a political science major, I am interested in public/private collaborations, such as the Central Appalachian Spruce Restoration Initiative (CASRI). I am also interested in grassroots organizing. In 2014, I traveled to Moshi, Tanzania and became involved with Mpingo-African blackwood tree restoration and conservation education through Clarinets for Conservation. This gave me experience on what conservation work really entails internationally. Through these projects, I met Dave Saville, my current supervisor for my internship with CASRI. We often miss an opportunity because it's dressed in overalls and looks like work. Who would have known my dream to come to the United States would have come true through planting trees?

What have you learned so far during your time as an International Visitor Program participant?

A lot! I have learned so much, you have no idea!

I have learned how to manage data through managing and calculating dissolved elements in river water. I have gained historical knowledge by researching the historic McClintic Trail and by exploring the library's extensive collection of West Virginia and Appalachian local historical materials and its facilities for genealogical research.

I have also learned that Americans have made headway because of small but vital things we ignore in Africa, which are the six-Ps (6Ps): Prior Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance. You need to make time in all seasons, especially in the winter; whereas, in Africa, we predominantly focus on hard work.

What have been some of your favorite memories and cultural activities you have experienced while here in the US?

One memory I will never forget was visiting historical spots and monuments in Washington, DC in single-digit degree weather on my first day here this past

winter. Another great memory is having had an opportunity to go to New York City and to travel in and out of the city using the subway on my own, after a little help of course.

I especially enjoyed working with 90 sixth-graders at the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge where they came for the annual "Wild School" event. The students learned about the importance of forests, and then each planted red spruce trees as part of a forest restoration project.

I was impressed going to the University theater and watching a presented script and later learning that the students did everything from scratch including, lighting, building the set and painting the backdrops. I also went to an opera show at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, which was a breath-taking moment for me.

Skiing!!

I have been able to go deep into the country where I have met absolutely friendly and welcoming people.

How has this experience impacted you personally and professionally?

This internship has been very rewarding in both my social and professional worlds. Personally, I have learned how to coexist with people of different cultures, races and continents. Professionally, I have learned about the work experience of professionals in various fields and how they work together to accomplish shared goals. Most of all it has trained me that, I can be anything I want to be if I apply myself fully.

What advice would you give to future visitors?

My advice to them would be, this is not a job, it is not an obligation, but, it is an opportunity to discover and experience what magic is and learn as much as you possibly can.

HOST: DAVE SAVILLE

Please tell us a bit about yourself and your career.

I grew up on a family farm in Western New York State in a town named Orchard Park. I attended West Virginia University where I got a BS in Resource Economics and MS in Forestry. I've worked for the USDA Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, the WV Water Research Institute, and am currently doing water research at Wheeling Jesuit University in the Department of Biology. My interests are in public lands management policy, clean water, and forest restoration. I led a legislative campaign for over 10 years, culminating in the passage of the Wild Monongahela Act, signed by President Obama in 2009. This Legislation protected nearly 40,000 acres of Wilderness on the Monongahela National Forest. I spent the summer in Kenya and Tanzania in 2014. I will be going back this year to continue working on the Forest Restoration at Mount Kilimanjaro where I worked last year.

What motivated you to host an international visitor, specifically Martin?

Working on a forest restoration project in Eastern Africa during the summer of 2014, I met Martin, a University of Nairobi undergraduate student.

Martin has a keen interest in the environment, including forest restoration and always had a dream to visit the USA. Diversity in the workplace is important, and I felt that involving Martin in the work of CASRI, allowing him to share his experience, would benefit our efforts as well as everyone involved.

What has been the most rewarding part of hosting an international visitor?

Changing someone's life. The rewards keep coming as we are able to expose Martin to a multitude of diverse cultural, social and recreational opportunities in the USA. Sharing the professional workplace, the nature of the collaborative processes, agency and political operations as well as the work of NGOs is a wonderful opportunity.

What are your favorite memories of working with Martin?

So far, picking him up at the airport and visiting Washington, DC in sub-zero weather. You can try to imagine what that's like, but when reality hits, it can be an eye-opening occurrence. Sharing Wild, Wonderful West Virginia, a place I love, with a new visitor, is always very enjoyable too.

How has this experience impacted you personally and professionally?

I've spent most of my life doing research and environmental advocacy work. While it is important and rewarding, it sometimes feels less than totally gratifying because of a lack of a direct benefit to individuals. Providing this opportunity, sharing a conservation ethic, and means of accomplishing goals, with someone who will directly benefit from the experience, and use it to take home, where he can make a difference, has made my work much more meaningful to me.

What advice would you give to future hosts?

Do it. Don't underestimate the power of changing one small part of the future. Feel the power of doing something so simple yet so profound.



Photo Credit: Andrea Brandon, The Nature Conservancy

CULTURE CORNER: WHEN HOME ISN'T A PLACE - THIRD CULTURE KIDS (TCKs)

What do President Barack Obama, author Isabel Allende, actor Viggo Mortensen, and journalist Christiane Amanpour have in common? They are all Third Culture Kids¹, even as adults. Their multicultural identities were shaped by spending many of their formative years living outside their birth countries and their parents' home cultures.

The term "Third Culture Kid" (TCK) was first coined by sociologist, Dr. Ruth Hill Useem in the 1950s. While studying expatriates in the USA and abroad, she concluded that they formed third cultures (or lifestyles), that were different from their home (first) culture and the host (second) culture. She referred to the children growing up in this new lifestyle as "third culture kids." Adults who grew up as TCKs are now sometimes referred to as "ATCKs."

As global mobility increases and more families relocate for work or study, there is growing interest in understanding how living outside a home culture for extended periods of time affects Global Nomads and their Third Culture Kids (TCKs). International employers have long known that successful family adjustment is of paramount importance for an expatriate parent's professional success. Whether transitioning for longer-term career placements, university study, or moving frequently from country to country, parents must adapt to living and working in their new environments, while also helping their children adjust and maintain balance.

TCKs grow up straddling, becoming a part of, and identifying with many cultures. They grow up with

unique perspectives, develop complex identities and become "multicultural persons." Because of their experiences and exposure to new things, most TCKs are inquisitive, adept at learning new languages and quite open to different cultural norms. In general, TCKs are skilled at negotiating new environments, politically savvy, and able to make friends and adjust to new schools with relative ease. They are resilient, adaptable, open, and usually have extensive networks and connections.

Beyond their common characteristics and strengths, TCKs also share similar struggles and challenges. They maintain many long-distance relationships with family and friends. They also share familiar patterns of building relationships and making friends, then losing them along the way. They grieve and mourn the loss of things and places with each transition. They may crave new things and change, along with stability and roots. TCKs also struggle with identity and "fitting in." Even as adult (TCKs), they might pause when asked, "Where are you from?" Their concepts of "home" and their cultural identity can't be captured by simply sharing their nationality or the many tales behind the plentiful stamps in their passports. For most TCKs, "home" isn't a place, it's the people with whom they share their lives.

Parents who understand the unique benefits, opportunities, and struggles of growing up a part of and apart from other cultures can help their TCKs of all ages adjust and thrive in new environments. By embracing their children's multi-faceted TCK identities, parents can help their children, capitalize on their unique strengths, and prepare for adulthood. They have much to offer their generation and the next. According to sociologist Ted Ward, "TCKs are the prototype citizens of the future."

Below are some resources and networks for expatriate parents, TCKs and ATCKs:



¹ The term "multicultural person" is also used to refer to individuals who identify with multiple cultures, either through their experiences as a part of multicultural families or through international expatriate experiences.

Books

- Third Culture Kids: Growing Up Among Worlds, 2009, David C. Pollock and Ruth E. Van Reken
- The Global Nomad's Guide to University Transition, 2010, Tina Quick
- Kids Like Me: Voices of the Immigrant Experience, 2006, Judith M. Blohm and Terri Lapinsky
- New Kid in School: Using Literature to Help Children in Transition, 2003, Debra Rader and Linda Harris Sittig

Articles

- "Third culture kids," by Ruth E. Van Reken, *The Telegraph*, 2009, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/expateducation/6545869/Third-culture-kids.html>
- "The trouble with third culture kids," *Children's Mental Health Network*, 2014, <http://www.cmhnetwork.org/media-center/morningzen/the-trouble-with-third-culture-kids>

Websites

- Families in Global Transition Resource Center, www.figt.org
- Cross Cultural Kids Blog, <http://blog.crossculturalkid.org/resources/>
- TC Kid, www.tckid.com
- Denizen, www.denizenmag.com
- TCK Academy, www.tckacademy.com
- MK Planet, www.mkplanet.com
- International Therapist Directory, www.internationaltherapistdirectory.com

Films and Videos

- *So Where's Home?* Film by Adrian Bautista, <https://vimeo.com/41264088>
- *31 Signs you're a 3rd Culture Kid*, <http://www.buzzfeed.com/regajha/31-signs-youre-a-third-culture-kid#.rbRZa6vYe>
- *The Namesake*, 2006, <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0433416/>



Source: www.oregon.gov

GET OUTDOORS!

Explore public lands this summer through Recreation.gov

Recreation might not be the first thing that you think of when it comes to national forests, but it is a very important element of forest management. The US Forest Service manages 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands under a multiple-use mandate, which means it is responsible for balancing and meeting the diverse needs of multiple stakeholders. In addition to managing rich stores of natural resources like timber and minerals, maintaining watershed health, protecting biodiversity, and even maintaining miles of highway and roads, the Forest Service hosts over 12 million visitors a year who participate in some form of recreation.

The majority of visitors to national forests and other public lands come to camp, hike, hunt, fish, or just to enjoy the scenery. While outdoor recreation has obvious benefits for people's health and fitness, the Forest Service benefits, as well. Visitors learn about the complexities of natural resource and public land management. In turn, their experiences cultivate broader appreciation and stewardship of America's public lands. The Forest Service recognizes that "outdoor recreation has become an essential part of our American culture."

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Left and middle photos' source: www.fs.usda.gov; Right photo source: www.savingourforests.com

America's public lands provide an incredible variety of recreation opportunities. Federally managed public lands include the national forests and grasslands managed by the US Forest Service, as well as famous national parks, historic monuments, scenic wildlife refuges and unspoiled wilderness areas managed by other government agencies such as the National Park Service (NPS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

To find outdoor recreation sites near you and plan your summer vacation, go to the website www.recreation.gov. You can start your search for destinations and activities across the United States by entering a state or zip code, or a specific National Park or Forest name.

Alternately, you can explore the trip ideas and planning tools on the site's thematic pages and "Explore Destination" pages, which cover both remote locations and major metropolitan areas. For example, International visitors hosted by ARS or the Forest Service in Albany, CA can check out the "Destination San Francisco" page. The page lists destinations north, east, south and west of the city (yes, west! – whale watching and kayaking off the Pacific Coast in the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary) where you can bike, hike, view wildlife, and much more.

You can also search by activity types or explore "Go Lists" if you have preferred activities in mind, such as horseback riding, skiing, or picnicking. For example, avid mountain bikers can review the "Mountain Biking Go List" page to find adventures across the country. Those interested in planning a road trip might read "Car Camping 101 - California and Nevada" to get useful camping tips and learn about campgrounds and destinations. Hikers can also search by trails and activities. Those wanting to get close to nature on the east coast might try the Allegrippis Trail System in Pennsylvania, while visitors in Wisconsin could explore the Great River State Trail, and converted railroad line. Pick a trail you'd like to try, and you can either plan a do-it-yourself visit or look up local outfitters to assist. You can also follow the links to the National Trails System - the 11 national scenic trails, 19 national historic trails and over 1,000 national recreation trails that cover almost 60,000 miles throughout the country. Chances are good that one of these trails is near you, so don't miss an opportunity for a short hike and afternoon picnic, or a multi-night camping and hiking experience!

Whether for a long vacation or a day trip, we hope you will make outdoor recreation part of your summer plans! Look for special events near you on National Get Outdoors Day (GO Day), Saturday, June 13, 2015, when federal agencies and other partners will offer special opportunities for families to experience traditional and non-traditional types of outdoor activities. Go Day encourages healthy, active outdoor fun across the nation and is aimed at reaching first-time visitors to public lands and reconnecting our youth to the great outdoors.

EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL EXCURSION

Learn, Connect & Explore the U.S.A.!

WASHINGTON, DC
OCTOBER 7-9, 2015



Join the International Visitor Program team and fellow international visitors on a 3-day exploration of the nation's capital, home to world-class museums, iconic monuments, and the heart of our federal government. The Washington, DC Educational and Cultural Excursion will provide a unique avenue for international visiting scientists, hosted by USDA throughout the country, to network with each other, explore the cultural sights of DC, and connect their contributions to the greater missions of our agencies.

Highlights of the Excursion:

- Day-trip to the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in Beltsville, MD. Overview by the Director of the Office of International Research Programs (OIRP) and networking luncheon.
- Visit with the USDA Office of the Chief Scientist and Deputy Under Secretary for the Research, Education, and Economics (REE) Mission Area.
- Meet and Greet with the Chief of the Forest Service and the USFS Deputy Chief of Research and Development
- Tours of the US Department of Agriculture Headquarters at the historical Jamie L. Whitten Building and the US Forest Service Headquarters at the Sydney Yates Building
- Washington, DC Guided Tour with stops at monuments and museums
- Farewell group dinner
- Free time for additional self-exploration of the city

Participants: International Visitor Program participants (USDA/ARS/USFS) are eligible to participate in this excursion. Spouses/ children may also attend and participate in alternate family friendly activities scheduled during events that are exclusively for J-1 exchange visitors. Local participants and/or hosts residing in the greater Washington, DC are encouraged to participate, as well.

Please be on the lookout for an email with additional information about the application process, tuition and deadlines; however, if you have any questions in the meantime please feel free to contact Misty Sidhu at mksidhu@fs.fed.us.

We look forward to seeing you in Washington, DC!

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Please Share Your Stories!

We would like to invite everyone to share photos and stories about yourselves, your programs, and the exchange experiences you've had in the United States and abroad. Please submit your stories, pictures, ideas, and feedback to Misty Sidhu at mksidhu@fs.fed.us

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Disclaimer

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ON THE HORIZON

US Holidays and Special Occasions

Sunday, May 10	Mother's Day
Monday, May 25	Memorial Day (<i>Federal government closed</i>)
Sunday, June 14	Flag Day
Sunday, June 21	Father's Day
Saturday, July 4	Independence Day (<i>Federal government closed on Friday, July 3</i>)

If you are a visitor to the US, ask your American hosts, friends and colleagues how they celebrate these holidays.

Hosts, we encourage you to use this opportunity to share an aspect of American culture with your visitor(s)!



The US Forest Service International Visitor Program is now on Facebook!

Please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Forest-Service-International-Visitor-Program/380788515370097>