




Sungeni R. Karonga

B.Hons. Environmental Science
Conservationpreneurship Assistant at PLCnetwork of the Southern Hemisphere

Sungeni Ruth Karonga is an environmental scientist who is passionate about community development, youth empowerment and environmental research. She was born and grew up in the Warm Heart of Africa, Malawi. She cannot pinpoint exactly which experience turned her passion from law to the environment. However, the feeling propelled her to change courses dramatically from pursuing an LLB to obtaining a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Environmental Sciences at Rhodes University in Makhanda, South Africa in 2020. Her thesis explored the drivers of protected areas being downgraded, downsized and degazetted in South Africa’s state- and privately-owned protected areas.

 The research enabled her to understand how conservation can be a dynamic tool for the rehabilitation and protection of wildlife, and advocacy for environmental health among communities to address some of the major challenges faced by private conservation areas.

Sungeni has led several environment-related projects, from presenting the benefits of recycling trash into eco-bricks and facilitating the learning of environmental education curriculums at the Amakhala Foundation, to contributing research towards building green skills for sustainable livelihoods with the Southern African Development Community (SADC).


Sungeni standing in the garden of the Sunbird Hotel, Lilongwe, Malawi.



Sungeni’s role as conservationpreneurship assistant combines her passion for conservation and human relationships for social change in one experience.

Fishing boats and a fisherman at the beach of Nkhotakota, Malawi.
Photo © Dietmar Temps

Sungeni joined the **PLCnetwork of the Southern Hemisphere** in April 2020 after seeking work opportunities that were inspiring and used flexible, cost-efficient and community-engaging solutions. Sungeni’s role as conservationpreneurship ambassador combines her passion for conservation and human relationships for social change in one experience.

 Furthermore, this dynamic conservation network empowers her to capture local solutions to global challenges across the Southern Hemisphere. A successful year later, Sungeni continues to use her diverse skills and knowledge to assist in achieving the vision of PLCnetwork.

Sungeni currently resides in Lilongwe, Malawi with her family and friends close by. When she is not busy working, she enjoys reading the literary works of bell hooks or watching Disney reruns with her niece. ■



Sungeni standing at the Shire River at Tongole Wilderness Lodge, Malawi.



River deck at Tongole Wilderness Lodge, Malawi.



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