

Makerere



University

**Department of Biological Sciences
COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES**

**PROPOSAL TO HOST THE 15TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY OF ETHNOBIOLOGY IN 2016**

HOST ORGANIZATION

Makerere University, Department of Biological Sciences, School of Biosciences
P.O. Box 7062, Kampala. Uganda
Website www.mak.ac.ug

With Collaboration of
Uganda National Council for Science and Technology
And
Buganda Kingdom

Contact person
Name: Dr. Esezah Kakudidi
Email: botany@botany.mak.ac.ug

Reasons for wanting to host the 15th ISE Congress

The Department of Biological Sciences, Makerere University would want to host the 15th ISE congress for a number of reasons the main one being the rich biological and cultural diversity that Uganda boasts of and would be of interest to ethnobiologists but also because of the interest the institution has in Ethnobiology and Ethnobiology related fields. Uganda is a landlocked country in the East African region lying astride the equator with an area of 241,547 km². She was referred to as the 'Pearl of Africa' by the great statesman Sir Winston Churchill back in 1907 and is truly gifted by nature. Apart from a small area that is semi-arid in the north, the country is always green. Uganda has six of Africa's 18 plant phytochoria or phytogeographical areas, this being more than any other African country. Owing to her unique bio-geographical location she has very rich biological diversity, this being one of the highest on the continent. She has more than half of all African bird species, and is second only to the Democratic Republic of Congo, her neighbour to the west, in mammal species that includes the rare mountain gorilla. Uganda is actually the 9th richest country in mammal species in the world, which is remarkable considering her size. There are 4,800 indigenous species of higher plants 10% of which are endemic, with more species than other East African countries per unit area. So far 9,000 species of insects have been recorded.

Uganda is not only biologically rich but has a remarkably rich cultural diversity. There are four major ethnic groups (Bantu, Nilotic, Nilo-Hamites, and Hamites) represented by up to 65 different tribal groupings with an equally diverse linguistic presence.

Hosting the congress in Uganda will not only show the biological and cultural diversity to members of the International Society of Ethnobiology, but will also allow interactions of the local populace with international participants, and through learning and sharing experiences, expand ethnobiological knowledge and relationships among various peoples. It will further enlighten the importance of the relationships between biological resources and cultural heritage, and strengthen initiatives for protecting biological and cultural diversity.

From a wider perspective Uganda has been a destination of choice for hosting a number of international and regional meetings, including the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) hosted in 2007 and the African Union (AU) Summit in 2010. Hosting the 15th Congress of the International Society of Ethnobiology will especially enhance the relevance of ethnobiology related programs both at Makerere University and other institutions in the country as well as provide an opportunity to share results from the various research projects that add to the improvement of people's livelihoods.

Furthering the goals of the ISE

With shared goals of ISE, the congress will provide a forum for exchange of ideas and experiences among scientists from the various Ethnobiology related fields, local practitioners and local communities and will also allow more interaction between the local communities and academia. The diversity of participants, experiences, activities and session formats of the congress will help in sharing lessons. This will widen the understanding of how they all

contribute to the knowledge systems in the diverse cultural settings, nurturing meaningful dialogue and working together for development.

The vision of Makerere University is to provide world-class teaching, research and service relevant to sustainable development needs for society. As such Makerere uses results from its research to serve the local community. Building on this, the congress will demonstrate the role played by local communities in the conservation of biological and cultural diversity. It will also enhance understanding of the relationships human beings have with their environment and how maintaining them is critical to the survival of future generations.

Among the local issues to be highlighted that are also of concern to many countries especially in the developing world and indigenous communities will be: threatened ethnic groups and languages; land tenure and conservation issues; and loss of indigenous knowledge that is being challenged by formal education.

Participation of Indigenous, traditional and local community members

The organizing team will have the collaboration of the Buganda Kingdom and this will ensure local community participation. Besides, the Makerere University community works closely with various groups from local communities in the country, some of whom will be involved in the organisation of the congress. Moreover, a wider participation will be encouraged in presentations, exhibitions and hands-on experiences, e.g. a practical session on bark cloth making among others. Indigenous, traditional and local communities from different parts of the world will be encouraged to participate in the different sessions of the congress. It is also anticipated that it will be possible to organize a special forum to address some pertinent issues related to traditional resource rights and the national and international development agenda.

Preliminary ideas for Congress themes

Main Theme: ‘Ethnobiological knowledge for improved human wellbeing and development’

Subthemes:

- Culture and education
- Ethnobiology and economic development
- The science behind traditional practices
- Traditional medicine, spirituality and the law
- Traditional medicine and modern medicine (bridging the gap between the two)
- Culture at the crossroads: threatened cultural institutions
- Gender roles and issues in resource management
- Ethnobiological knowledge and intellectual property issues
- Ethnobiological knowledge transmission and survival of indigenous languages
- Indigenous Knowledge systems and food security
- Policy evolution and natural resource management
- Bioprospecting and international law
- Other subthemes will be encouraged from other members of the ISE

Creating a productive space for exchanges between diverse political, cultural and epistemological views in ethnobiology: Information-sharing structures beyond conventional academic formats

Besides the usual scientific structure of a conference, that is plenary sessions, parallel sessions, workshops and a poster session, there will be roundtable discussions on topical international issues in ethnobiology; for example, the involvement of concerned communities and organizations in political decision-making processes for conservation. Other formats to allow non conventional presentations will include films, exhibitions such as photo exhibitions; hands-on experiences, or practical sessions, artisan demonstrations; and learning through storytelling led by elders. It is anticipated that there will be a forum to address issues of concern to indigenous, traditional and local communities. More ideas from different parts of the world, disciplines and backgrounds will be sought in the call for session proposals. Some of the activities will involve performing arts depicting the themes through plays, songs, drama and dance; ethnomusicology, presenting different traditional musical instruments used at different cultural ceremonies; and visits to cultural centers where more activities will take place.

It is anticipated that there will be a local preparatory workshop on the role of indigenous knowledge as a vehicle to development whose recommendations will be presented at the congress. There will also be awareness creation through pre-congress activities, including online discussions, radio and TV shows on subjects relevant to the congress theme, and debates and quizzes for school children. A workshop for emerging ethnobiologists is envisaged for which the Uganda team will work with the student representatives on the ISE board to come up with an appropriate theme.

The strengths of Makerere University and the Department of Biological Sciences in relation to ethnobiology, biocultural diversity and related fields

Makerere University is one of the oldest and most prestigious in Africa, having had its beginnings in 1922. The University has a diversity of experienced people in various ethnobiology-related fields. It offers both undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Ethnobotany, Conservation Biology, Ethnopharmacology, Botany, Zoology, Forestry, Agriculture, Languages and Performing and Liberal Arts. Other ethnobiological related fields taken include gender studies, ethnomedicinal research, cultural anthropology, peace and conflict resolution, including cultural conflict management, and religious studies.

The Department of Biological Sciences has partnerships with different organizations involved in natural resources conservation and sustainable use and is involved in activities that include community outreach programs especially in areas surrounding protected areas. An example is the one with Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) at Makerere Biological Field Station in Kibale National Park where the Department of Biological Sciences is involved in research, training and community outreach in resource conservation and benefit-sharing. Other initiatives undertaken by the department include research with local communities on various aspects of medicinal plants used in traditional medicine, including conservation and natural product development. Associated to the Department of Biological Sciences are UGANEB (Uganda Group of the

African Network of Ethnobiology), JERA (Joint Ethnobotanical Research and Advocacy), MUEA (Makerere University Ethnobotany Association), and MUCOBA (Makerere University Conservation Biology Association). All these advance the interest in Ethnobiology at the University. Makerere University is specifically accommodative of various ethnic groups that form cultural associations which are very active within the student community, strengthening their cultural identities and responsibilities within society.

The capacity and experience of Makerere University and the Department of Biological Sciences in relation to organizing a major event of this kind

Several international events have been organized at Makerere University. These include the Women and Health Meeting in 1993, Gender World in 2002, Plant Sciences Conference for the East African region in 2005, and Natural Products Research Network for Eastern and Central Africa (NAPRECA) in 2007 organized by the Uganda chapter. The last two were organized by the Department of Biological Sciences and also involved participation of traditional practitioners. Individuals on the prospective organizing team for the congress have been involved in organizing conferences and will use their experience for this congress. Makerere University also has the opportunity to use volunteer students for some organizational activities.

Ethnobiologists would be interested in meeting in Uganda and region for the following reasons

a) Geographical and historical interest in the region

Uganda is located in Eastern Africa and occupies 241,547 sq. km, 18% of which consists of open inland waters and permanent wetlands. She is bordered by Sudan to the North, Kenya to the East, Tanzania to the South, Rwanda to the South West and Democratic Republic of Congo to the West. Much of the country is a plateau of 900-1,500m above sea level. Towards the south, the scenery consists of flat-topped mesa like hills and broad intervening valleys frequently containing swamps; towards the north, the landscape is of gently rolling open plains interrupted by occasional hills, mountains and inselbergs. To the southwest, broken hill country forms the transition to the deeply incised plateau that reaches its greatest height levels above 2,000m. Along the western border runs the famous Western (Albertine) Rift Valley within which lie Lakes Albert, Edward and George as well as the glaciated Rwenzori Mountains that form the highest mountain range in Africa (Mountains of the Moon) 70km long and 30km wide, rising to the highest peak in the country at 5,100m. There are a number of volcanic craters associated with the rift valley including the three quiescent Bufumbira volcanoes of Muhavura (4,130m), Mgahinga (3,470m) and Sabinio (3,630m). To the east there is Mt. Elgon an extinct volcano with a crater lake on the Kenya-Uganda border rising to 4,321m. To the south is Lake Victoria, the largest lake in Africa and second largest freshwater lake in the world, shared with Kenya and Tanzania. Uganda has many natural forests and a number of widely acclaimed National Parks some of which can be visited on pre- or post-congress long trips.

Although Uganda lies astride the equator, the would-be tropical climate is considerably modified by topography and local relief which give her a lot of climatic variation with a mean annual

maximum temperature of 18-35⁰C and a minimum range of 8-23⁰C; generally the climate is warm and outdoor friendly for field excursions. Uganda was last year ranked as number one tourist destination for 2012 ahead of countries such as Myanmar (Burma), Ukraine, Jordan, Denmark, Bhutan, Cuba, New Caledonia, Taiwan and Switzerland. She has also been referred to as Africa condensed, with the best of everything the continent has to offer packed into one small but stunning destination with the 'striking scenery looking like an oil painting'.

Uganda's tourist attractions include three UNESCO designated World Heritage Sites, one cultural and two natural. The natural sites are both found in the western part of the country. The first is Rwenzori Mountain National Park 437km west of Kampala, known for its beautiful plant life and outstanding natural beauty. The second is Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, part of Bwindi Impenetrable forest known for the high concentration of primates, including the majestic mountain gorilla, one of the rarest animals on the planet. This park, bordering the Democratic Republic of Congo, is known for chimpanzee and gorilla tracking. The two parks are part of the Western Rift Valley, referred to as the Albertine Rift which is both a 'biodiversity hotspot' and an 'endemic bird area' and has a number of other endemic species. Within the Albertine Rift is the Queen Elizabeth National Park which is known for the climbing lions at Ishasha and the Kazinga channel boat rides for viewing the rich wildlife, this park alone has 594 species of birds. In the northwest are the beautiful Murchison Falls National Park, Karuma Wildlife Reserve and Budongo Forest Reserve that is very rich in tree species. To the east, 85km from Kampala at the Jinja Owen Falls Dam is the source of the Nile River, the world's longest river, and the Bujagali Falls that offer the best white-water rafting in the world.

b) Cultural and biological diversity

For a small country Uganda has remarkably rich cultural diversity, consisting of four major ethnic groups (Bantu, Nilotic, Nilo-Hamites, and Hamites). The ethnic groups are composed of up to 65 different tribal groupings with an equally diverse linguistic coverage, some of which like Ndorobo, Tepeth, Ik, and Batwa are endangered. The Batwa people, a Bantu group whose lifestyle depended heavily on the forest and forest resources were affected by the establishment of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. They can now be found in Kisoro and at the edge of Semliki National Park.

The only UNESCO World Heritage cultural site in the country, Kasubi Tombs, is only 2km from the proposed congress venue. The site is steeped in Baganda (the largest of the Bantu ethnic group) cultural history; the *Muzibu Azaala Mpanga*, the main Mausoleum for Buganda kings is an important cultural, spiritual and political site built from posts, reed, thatch and bark. It recently caught fire but its rebuilding will be complete long before the congress.

The people of Uganda in many ways relate closely with their biocultural heritage. Uganda's cultural diversity is considered as a major driving force for development as emphasized in the national cultural policies developed in 2006. For instance, it has been estimated that over 80% of the population especially in rural areas depend on traditional or herbal medicine, thus traditional medicine plays a big role in Uganda's health care system, a fact that has to be considered in development programs.

The six plant phytochoria or phytogeographical areas found in Uganda comprise the Guineo-Congolian regional center of endemism in the western part of the country; the Guinea-Congolia/Sudania regional transition zone; the Sudanian regional center of endemism in parts of Northern and North Eastern Uganda; the Somali-Masai center of endemism in parts of the north; the Afromontane archipelago-like center of endemism on the mountains; and the Lake Victoria regional Mosaic in the Central, Western and Southern parts of the country. Due to the altitudinal and climatic variations, Uganda has very rich biological diversity per unit area compared to other countries in the East African region and is one of the highest on the continent. Uganda has floristic elements from both East and West Africa with a number of endemics. She has more than half of all African bird species, and 345 mammal species, this being second only to the Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa, and 9th richest in the world.

c) Interaction with local ethnobiologists and with Indigenous, traditional, and/or local communities

There are a number of institutions in the country connected to government and NGOs that are interested in Ethnobiology related subjects and many will no doubt be at the congress. There is also a very active network of traditional healers and herbalists, some of whom will participate in the congress. What is impressive are the many small-scale industries and enterprises organized and based on products from natural resources like medicinals, nutraceuticals, and arts and crafts. While some of these will be present at the congress venue, others in the nearby areas surrounding the venue can easily be visited and a few will be included in the short circuit tours of Kampala city. Some of the practitioners will be at the congress to show their expertise in different ways. Interactions with all these groups will be a given.

d) Contacts with other relevant organizations and institutions

Many international organizations have offices in Kampala and can be reached; many will also be invited to the congress. A number of relevant government institutions and NGOs will be encouraged to participate in the congress in one way or another.

Proposed organizational plan

a) Congress Venue Location

Makerere University is conveniently located about 3km to the north of Kampala, Uganda's capital city. It is about 40km away from Entebbe International Airport. Makerere University main campus, as the proposed congress location has several conference facilities. Makerere University main hall that sits 800-1000 persons is suitable for plenary sessions and receptions. Nearby in other buildings on campus are a number of adequate conference halls within walking distance of each other suitable for parallel sessions. Some of the non-conventional congress activities such as hands-on training in aspects of craft making, exhibitions, and traditional dances will be at the Makerere University Freedom Square, located in front of the main building.

b) Local Organizing Committee

Dr. Esezah Kakudidi, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Makerere University
Prof. R. Bukenya-Ziraba, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Makerere University
Ms Christine S. Kabuye
Mr. Godwin Anywar, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Makerere University
Prof. M. Mamdan, Makerere Institute for Social Research, Makerere University
Dr. Edith Okiria – College of Humanities and Social Science, Makerere University
Mr. Charles Galabuzi, College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Makerere University
Dr. Samuel Okello, College of Vet Medicine, Animal Resource and Biosecurity, Makerere University
Mr. Claude Kirimuhuzya,
Dr. John Wasswa-Mulumba, Entebbe Botanical Garden, National Agricultural Research Organization
Dr. Yahaya Sekagya, PROMETRA
Dr. Hizaamu Ramadhan, HIPO-Africa
Dr. Godber Tumushabe, ACODE (Advocates Coalition on Development and Environment)

The committee will have full collaboration with the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology and the Buganda Kingdom.

c) Infrastructure and services

The Department of Biological Sciences will house and manage the Secretariat for the congress and deal with all correspondence. Makerere University has a College of Computing and Information Sciences, whose services will be fully used for the congress. The main venue is well-connected to online communication services with broadband speeds.

d) Institutional and government support, including fundraising strategy

The Department of Biological Sciences has identified key stakeholders with whom to work and ensure support for the congress. Among them is the commitment already obtained from Makerere University College of Natural Sciences where the Congress Secretariat will be established, Makerere University itself for general support and the hosting of the website for the congress. Within the government agencies identified include the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) as a major collaborator as it is responsible for research protocols and has a desk on indigenous knowledge in the country; the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), responsible for coordinating biodiversity and environmental issues; Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries; Entebbe Botanical Garden, National Agricultural Research Organization; Ministry of Wildlife and Tourism; Uganda Wildlife Authority; and Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. Outside Uganda government agencies are Buganda Kingdom that is a major collaborator, Nature Uganda, NAPRECA Uganda chapter, and other support from local representatives of international organizations.

The funds will be sought from various sources, a number of which have been contacted, including University sources, the government, international agencies, and local industries. Some of our partners in development include NORAD, SIDA, UNESCO, UNDP, MacArthur Foundation, Madhvani Foundation, and the Ford Foundation.

Criteria

1. Logistics(getting to Uganda, Kampala and Makerere)

Several international airlines fly to Entebbe, Uganda's International airport. Entebbe is 40km from Kampala city center. Costs of special hire taxis from Entebbe to Kampala range between 30-40US\$, but Airport taxis cost a bit more. Kampala is accessible by road using buses, minibuses and taxis if travelling from neighbouring countries. Makerere University is about 3km from Kampala city center and public transport is easily available.

Adequate accommodation facilities exist within the vicinity of Makerere University, the congress venue. Hotels in Kampala range from budget to upmarket. The costs range from as low as US\$30 to US\$300, bed and breakfast. Public transport is readily available to the congress venue or can be arranged with the individual hotels. Stay in the University halls of residence will be arranged, especially for members of the local communities. It is therefore proposed that the dates for the congress be the first week of August 2016 during Makerere University vacation to allow the Congress to use some of the available facilities.

Local administrative support for logistics

Letters of invitation will be written for registered persons to enable them obtain visas. Group transport will be organized from the airport to hotels by the organizers or the hotels where delegates book.

Visas

Uganda has missions in different countries for participants to obtain visas before leaving own home country. For countries where missions may not be present, arrangements could be made for the participants to obtain Uganda visas on arrival at Entebbe airport or border posts if travelling by road. It should be noted that participants coming from countries where yellow fever is still prevalent need yellow fever vaccination certificates.

Field sites

Some of the historical and cultural sites that can be visited during the congress would be the Uganda National Museum 3km from the city center; the Kasubi tombs; the Lubiri (palace) of Buganda Kingdom, including the Bulange (Buganda Parliament), and a number of other historical and cultural sites within a radius of 3-5km from the city center. Kampala is made up of seven hills four of which are occupied by religious establishments, these being Namirembe Cathedral, Rubaga Cathedral, Kibuli Mosque, and Old Kampala Fort Lugard and Mosque. They

are worth a visit and from them one can have panoramic viewing of the city center and beyond. The other three hills are occupied by Makerere University, Nakasero State House, and Kololo (independence grounds & air strip). As Uganda's economy is largely agriculture-based, a visit to the central market will show the wide choice of farm produce.

Further out of the city would be the Uganda Martyrs' shrines at Namugongo; Ssezibwa Falls (Kayunga), Mabira forest (Mukono); PROMETRA forest (Mpigi), conserving medicinal plants; source of the Nile and white-water rafting at Bujagali that would fit in midweek trips. Of historical and archaeological interest is the Sango Bay Stone Age site on the shores of Lake Victoria. Private tours can be arranged through tour operators either pre- or post- congress to other sites suggested below.

Southwest Uganda: a) 3 days to Queen Elizabeth & Lake Mburo National Parks for wildlife; b) 3 days to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (530km from Kampala) for gorilla tracking. Northern Uganda: 3 days to Murchison Falls National Park for the beauty and wildlife and Budongo for chimpanzee tracking. Eastern Uganda: 3 days to Mount Elgon National Park for extended hikes, interesting and unique flora, including the bamboo and Podocarpus forest, fauna, and hot springs. Northeast Uganda: 4 days to Kidepo Valley National Park in the Karamoja sub region with a rich and unique diversity of birds such as ostrich, mammals and plant species. There are other sites that could be visited en route such as *Bigo bya Mugenyi*- palace of Mugenyi of the Bacwezi dynasty of the 13th-16th century that is 200km west of Kampala, and the '*Nakayima*', a 400 years old tree with large buttressed roots in Mubende – a place of spirituality where people go for traditional religious consultations, is 160km west of Kampala.

Institutions, infrastructure and communications

a) Cultural and scientific institutions in the location

Makerere is the oldest university in East Africa and was until 1954 the only institution for higher learning in East Africa and the only university in Uganda until 1990. Besides offering undergraduate and postgraduate courses, it is very active in research with several collaborations with other universities in the region, Europe and America. The University consists of eight colleges. Under the College of Natural Sciences is the Department of Biological Sciences that is taking the lead in offering to host the ISE Congress in 2016. Other relevant colleges are those for Humanities and Social Science, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. The Makerere Library, next to the main venue, is one of the biggest in Africa and has some archive materials including unique collections on the history of medicine in Uganda and other interesting information on Uganda's cultural heritage.

Mulago Hospital, the national referral hospital and teaching hospital for Makerere University is the oldest in East and Central Africa and only half a kilometer from the main campus. The Natural Chemotherapeutics Research Institute started in the 1960s and handling research in herbal medicine is 300m from the congress venue. Uganda National Museum, the oldest museum in East Africa, having been founded 1908 is about 1km from the main campus, it houses exhibits on traditional culture, archaeology, history, science and natural history. The National Theater and the Uganda National Cultural Centre with a craft village is 2km from Makerere.

Buganda kingdom where Makerere University is located is the largest of the five hereditary kingdoms in Uganda, covering about 30% of the country's total area. It has rich cultural background and set-up and there will be opportunity to meet with the friendly people and visit some interesting parts of this old cultural institution nearby. Although other cultural institutions are far from Kampala they can be visited on long trips.

b) State of Local communications and congress facilities

Makerere University main campus, as the proposed congress location has several conference facilities. Makerere University main hall that sits 800-1000 persons is suitable for plenary sessions and receptions. Nearby in other buildings are a number of adequate conference halls within walking distance of each other for parallel sessions. Non-conventional congress activities such as hands-on trainings on aspects of craft making, exhibitions, and traditional dances will be at the Freedom Square, located in front of the main building. The conference halls are equipped for projections and the main venue is well-connected to online communication services with broadband speeds.

c) Local administrative support for communication and correspondence

Makerere University has robust email services and the congress secretariat will be able to set up and manage its own website where message posting will be possible.

2. Organizational and funding support

The organizing committee, made up of individuals from different colleges in the university, and other collaborating institutions has committed persons that can ably work on the congress program, logistics and fundraising. The congress secretariat will be housed and supported by the Department of Biological Sciences. Using email, conference calls and/or skype it will be possible for the local organizing committee to communicate with the international organizing committee, the ISE Board and staff as required.

3. Additional criteria

It will be possible to create and regularly update a congress website. Makerere has a School of Computing and Informatics Technology and full use will be made of its expertise.

4. Proceedings

There will be arrangements to publish the congress proceedings in print either as an independent book or as a special issue of a relevant journal. Proceedings of non conventional presentations will be made on video and recordings, respecting the wishes of the presenters.

Appendix 1: Supporting letters



Uganda National Council for Science and Technology

(Established by Act of Parliament of the Republic of Uganda)

UNIVER/01/1

21 February 2012

The International Society of Ethnobiology
14 School Street
P.O. Box 303
Bristol, VT 05443 USA

**RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES' BID TO HOST
THE 15TH CONGRESS OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ETHNOBIOLOGY IN 2016**

This letter serves to confirm that the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) fully supports the Makerere University Department of Biological Sciences' Bid to host The 15th Congress of International Society of Ethnobiology in 2016.

Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) is a Government of Uganda agency mandated to provide advise on policy matters essential for advancing science and technology in all sectors of the national economy. UNCST is also responsible for coordinating and guiding research and development; and facilitating the integration of science and technology in national development. UNCST is actively involved in development and implementation of bilateral and multilateral science, technology and innovation (STI) collaboration projects and programmes.

The UNCST recognises the crucial role that the Department of Biological Sciences and Makerere University play in fostering national development. UNCST is particularly interested in the ISE Code of Ethics that is very relevant to our work. We also note that Members of the proposed local organising committee have extensive experience in organising international conferences of the stature of the ISE Congress.

The UNCST confirms that Uganda as a host will guarantee the security and freedom of movement of both local and international scientists and other participants in the conference.

UNCST further affirms that the conference will be held in accordance with policies and guidelines of the International Society of Ethnobiology. The UNCST has full trust and confidence that the Department of Biological Sciences has the necessary capacity to effectively host this important conference. UNCST together with the Department of Biological Sciences will work with the local and international organising committee and other stakeholders to mobilise necessary resources for the congress.

Yours Sincerely,

Edward Tujunirwe
For: Executive Secretary
UGANDA NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Cc: Dr. Esezah Kakudidi
Head, Department of Biological Sciences, Makerere University

LOCATION/CORRESPONDENCE

Plot 6 Kimera Road, Ntinda
P.O. Box 6884
KAMPALA, UGANDA

COMMUNICATION

TEL: (256) 414 705500
FAX: (256) 414-234579
EMAIL: info@uncst.go.ug
WEBSITE: <http://www.uncst.go.ug>



BUGANDA KINGDOM
MINISTRY OF HERITAGE, ROYAL TOMBS AND TOURISM
(EKITONGOLE KY'EBY'ENNONO, AMASIRO N'OBULAMBUZI)

20/02/2012

Department of Biological Sciences,
Makerere University.

Attn: Dr. Esezah Kakudidi.

RE: OFFERING TO HOST THE 15TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ETHNOBIOLOGY IN 2016.

Thank you for your letter dated 14th February, 2012 on the above subject matter.

Buganda Kingdom is willing to collaborate with your unit to host the 15th ISE Congress in Uganda in 2016.

We have studied the Congress themes and found them potentially beneficial to the development of a Cultural Institution like Buganda and Education in general. This Congress will show case a lot of "our Culture, traditional norms and practices" in Buganda and Africa in general.

We are proposing to send you the following photos:-

- i) Kasubi Royal Tombs
- ii) Ssaabasajja Kabaka lauching "**Buganda Bumu Drum**"
- iii) Kiganda dance performed before the Nnabagereka.

For further interaction and communication regarding the subject, I refer you to Dr. Fred Masagazi Masaazi, Minister of Education & Sports, Buganda Kingdom. (0772 369 938)

Yours Sincerely

SSEKIMPI M. SSEMAMBO,
2ND DEPUTY KATIKIRO & MINISTER OF HERITAGE, ROYAL TOMBS & TOURISM.

- cc: Oweek. Eng J.B. Walusimbi - Katikiro.
cc: Oweek. Amb. E.L. Ssendaula - 1st Deputy Katikiro.
cc: Oweek. Dr. F.M. Masagazi - Minister of Education & Sports.

Appendix 2: Map and photos of the proposed location and region



Figure 1: Map of Uganda showing her neighbours & bigger National Parks



Figure 2: The Crowned Crane, Emblem of Uganda (a threatened species)



Figure 3: Kampala Skyline



Figure 4: Makerere University Main Building



Figure 5: Makerere University Main Hall



Figure 6: Two of the Conference facilities at Makerere University



Figure 7: (above) Makerere University Freedom Square; and Figure 8: (below) Livingstone Hall of Residence





Figure 9: Mount Elgon Crater with endemic *Dendrosenecio elgonensis*



Figure 10: A giant tree in Mabira forest



Figure 11: The Kabaka of Buganda Kingdom launching a new royal drum (Buganda Bumu – one Buganda)



Figure 12: ‘Muzibu Azaala Mpanga’ (The mausoleum for Buganda Kings) at Kasubi Tombs



Figure 13: Kiganda dance performed before the Nnabagereka (Buganda queen)

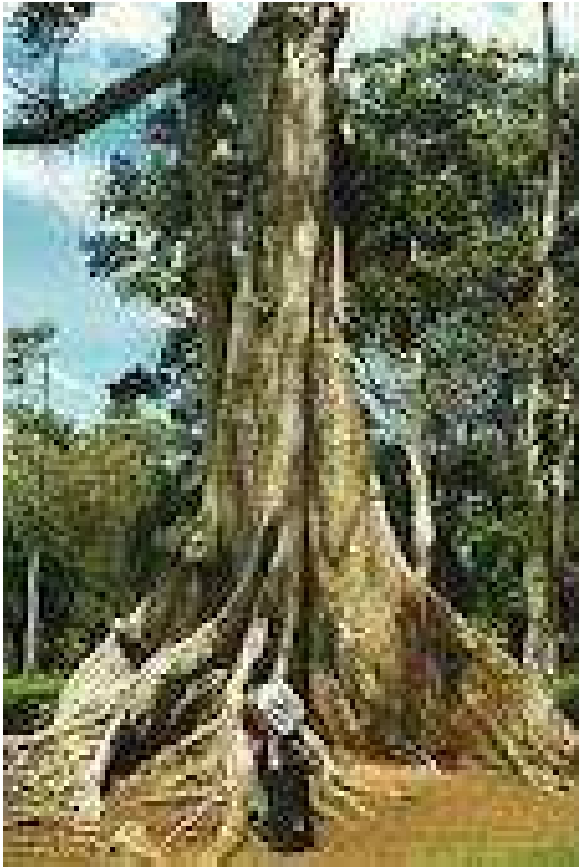


Figure 14: ‘Nakayima’-a 400-year old sacred tree in Mubende