



Program Application: Joshua Kato

Eligibility Requirements

Please select your primary country of citizenship.	Uganda
Are you a citizen of any other country?	No
Do you currently live in the primary country of citizenship that you listed above?	Yes
Do you consider yourself a refugee?	No
Were you born in the United States?	No
City of Birth	Kampala
Country of Birth	Uganda
Are you a citizen or permanent resident of the United States?	No
Have you applied for United States permanent residency in the past three years?	No
Please enter your date of birth as it appears on your passport.	12/26/1994
Are you able to write and speak in English at a professional level?	Yes
Are you currently participating in a community project or initiative?	Yes
How many years of experience do you have in community development?	2
Are you available to travel to the United States from August-December 2025?	Yes
If selected for the Community Solutions Program, are you committed to living in your current home country for a period of two years after you complete the program (from	Yes

December 2025 –December 2027 in accordance with the J visa regulations?	
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Demographic Information

What sex appears on your passport or national ID?	Male
What is your current gender identity?	Male
What pronouns would you prefer to use during your practicum if selected?	He/Him
Do you think of yourself as:	Straight (heterosexual)
Would you define the community where you live as urban, semi-urban, or rural?	Semi-urban
Do you identify as living with a physical or mental disability?	Yes
How did you hear about the Community Solutions Program?	U.S. Embassy

Contact Information

Given Name(s) or First and Middle Name(s)	Joshua
Family Name, Last Name, or Surname	Kato
Current Address	
Street address, building and/or apartment number	Masajja zone A
City	Masajja division
Province or Region	Central
Postal Code	
Country	Uganda
Permanent Address	
Street address, building and/or apartment number	Masajja zone A
City	Masajja division
Province or Region	Central
Postal Code	
Country	Uganda
Email Address	katoj65@gmail.com

Alternate Email Address	joshkato24@gmail.com
Preferred Telephone	+256752567534
Alternate telephone	

Previous International Experience

How many countries have you traveled to outside of your home country?	1-3
Have you previously traveled to the United States?	No
Are you planning to travel to the United States or have applied to a program to travel to the United States in the next year for any education, fellowship, or training program other than the Community Solutions Program?	No
Have you previously participated in any international education, fellowship, or training program in a foreign country other than the United States?	No

Educational Background

What is the highest level of education that you have completed?	University (undergraduate) degree
Year Completed	2013
What was your major or topic of study?	Information Technology
Have you completed any previous leadership or management training programs?	Yes
Please write the name of the leadership or management training program, location, topic and dates for all leadership and training programs completed.	Foreign Policy Executive Program
If you have completed any professional certifications or training programs that you	Foreign Policy Executive Program, Center for Policy and Strategic Studies (CPSS) Africa and the Lincoln Institute for Diplomacy and International Relations

have not yet identified in this application, please write them here.	
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Professional Background

Name of Current or Most Recent Organization	Uganda Carbon Registry
City	Kampala
Country	Uganda
Telephone	+256752567534
Website	www.ugandacarbonregistry.org
Your Current or Most Recent Professional Title	Founder and CEO
Your Current or Most Recent Professional Responsibilities	The founder and CEO of the Uganda Carbon Registry is responsible for overseeing the organisation's daily operations while developing both a carbon footprint information system and a carbon market information system to facilitate carbon tracking, trading, and environmental accountability across Uganda.
Your Top Professional Achievements or Awards	Founding the Uganda Carbon Registry to guide the country's climate agenda, launching innovative carbon footprint and carbon market information systems, and overseeing strategic partnerships that enhance Uganda's carbon credit infrastructure. These accomplishments are aimed at driving sustainable environmental practices in Uganda, elevating the national response to climate change, and establishing significant frameworks for emission reductions.
Are you currently employed by this organization?	Yes
Start Date	Jul 2023
End Date	

Community Development Experience

Name of Organization	Uganda Carbon Registry
City	Kampala
Country	Uganda
Website	www.ugandacarbonregistry.org
Please select the statement that best describes your community development organization	Small, locally led organization or social enterprise
Your Role or Title	Founder and CEO
Your Role's Responsibilities or Activities	The founder and CEO of the Uganda Carbon Registry is responsible for overseeing the organisation's daily operations while developing both a carbon footprint information system and a carbon market information system to facilitate carbon tracking, trading, and environmental accountability across Uganda.
How long have you worked or volunteered with this	1-2 years

organization or social enterprise?	
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Vision (Essay Questions)

Focus Area	Environmental Issues
Sub-themes:	Low Carbon Technologies Waste Management Resilient Systems Water and Resource Management Disaster Preparedness and Management Recycling Environmental Awareness Youth Engagement Climate Change Conservation Pollution and Carbon Reduction Natural Resource Management Biodiversity

1. What is the primary issue that you are currently working to address in your community? What have you already done to address this issue? Please be specific and highlight what you consider your greatest accomplishments working on this issue in your community.

I am working to address climate change mitigation in my community, with a specific focus on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and promoting sustainable practices.

This effort is crucial in Uganda, where environmental impacts disproportionately affect local economies and vulnerable populations due to reliance on agriculture and natural resources.

I founded the Uganda Carbon Registry to address this issue by creating a national platform to support organisations, businesses, and individuals in tracking, managing, and reducing their carbon footprints.

We are also implementing a robust carbon market information system that enables transparent carbon credit trading and fosters investments in green projects.

To make a tangible impact, I have developed both carbon footprint and carbon credit information systems that simplify GHG tracking and accountability. These systems allow organisations to quantify their emissions and participate in carbon offset projects, bringing economic benefits to local communities engaged in reforestation, renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture.

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One of my proudest accomplishments has been our partnership with grassroots organisations, which has helped elevate community-driven climate projects.

2. What brought you to the described community work, and what motivates you to continue within it?

My journey into community-focused climate work was driven by a passion for environmental sustainability and the urgent need to address climate challenges in Uganda. Growing up, I witnessed the effects of climate change on local communities, especially those relying on agriculture for their livelihoods. Over the years, increased droughts, floods, and erratic weather patterns have not only impacted food security but have also highlighted the necessity for a proactive response to protect vulnerable communities and ensure a sustainable future.

I founded the Uganda Carbon Registry to create a structured and impactful approach to climate mitigation. The Registry addresses two major needs: empowering organisations and individuals to accurately track their carbon emissions and creating a transparent carbon market system that incentivises sustainable practices. Knowing that our efforts can potentially provide both environmental and economic benefits keeps me motivated.

3. Share a personal challenge that has shaped you and how you lead. What did you learn? How did this experience change you? What do you wish you had done differently?

A significant personal challenge that shaped my approach to leadership involved launching the Uganda Carbon Registry. Establishing a national registry to manage carbon emissions in a developing context was incredibly complex, requiring alignment with both local and international standards while navigating limited resources and regulatory hurdles.

As the Registry's founder, I had to secure buy-in from diverse stakeholders, including government bodies, private sector organisations, and grassroots communities. Initially, I underestimated the level of outreach and strategic communication needed to bring everyone on board, which led to slow progress in the early stages. Additionally managing severe budget constraints of establishing the Uganda Carbon Registry.

The project's vision was ambitious: building a national carbon tracking and credit system from the ground up. However, funding sources were initially limited, and every expense had to be carefully justified. Balancing operational costs with strategic priorities meant making tough decisions, like delaying key hires or scaling back project scopes to maintain our core objectives.

Through this experience, I learned the importance of prioritisation and adaptability. I became skilled at identifying the most impactful tasks and reallocating resources toward those that aligned best with our long-term goals. Creative problem-solving became essential, often involving partnerships and resource-sharing to stretch limited funding further.

I wish I had sought more community partnerships and explored alternative funding sources earlier, such as grant opportunities and collaborations with local organisations. While our initial focus was on laying the technical foundation for the Registry, a broader network might have mitigated some financial pressures and accelerated growth.

4. The Community Solutions Program includes a graduate-level leadership development course in which you will create a Personal Leadership Plan over 6 months with assistance from an executive coach. How might a highly self-reflective leadership development program support you at this time? What calls you to CSP in particular, and what do you hope to receive?

The Community Solutions Program's self-reflective leadership development course aligns perfectly with my journey and growth as a leader in climate action. Developing a Personal Leadership Plan with guidance from an executive coach would provide structured insights and targeted strategies to elevate my approach to leadership, particularly in the areas of adaptability, stakeholder engagement, and sustainable growth.

CSP's focus on social impact leadership resonates deeply with my work at the Uganda Carbon Registry, where building community-centred solutions is essential. The opportunity to learn from a global network of leaders facing similar challenges would provide diverse perspectives that could broaden my understanding and introduce innovative approaches to tackling budget constraints, resource mobilization, and team motivation.

Through CSP, I hope to gain skills that will enhance the Registry's impact, while also refining my vision to lead climate initiatives that are both locally rooted and globally aware. I'm particularly drawn to CSP for its strong emphasis on real-world applications and cross-cultural exchange, which would not only support my current role but also empower me to contribute more meaningfully to climate policy and environmental justice initiatives on a broader scale.

5. You will work with diverse individuals on the Community Solutions Program, whose nationality, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, or religion is different from yours, and it can be a challenge for you to understand and work with them. What has helped you to work with those different from you in the past? What do you want to learn more about when working with diverse groups? What specific steps will you take to foster successful working relationship with whose identity is very different from what you are familiar with while on the fellowship?

Active listening, cultural sensitivity, flexibility, and building trust have helped me work effectively with diverse individuals, and I aim to learn more about communication styles, conflict resolution, and inclusivity; during the fellowship, I will foster successful relationships by engaging in continuous learning, asking open-ended questions, supporting collaboration, and creating a safe space for open dialogue.

6. The Community Solutions Program is an intensive 4-month fellowship that contains not only a graduate level online leadership course, but also a full-time work practicum at a host organization. What current strategies do you use to manage stress, well-being, and prioritize your responsibilities? What resilience skills do you want to improve?

To manage stress and prioritize my responsibilities, I rely on time management techniques like setting clear goals, breaking tasks into smaller steps, and using mindfulness practices to stay grounded. I also make sure to take regular breaks, maintain a healthy work-life balance, and stay connected with my support network. However, I want to improve my resilience skills by becoming better at adapting to unforeseen challenges, managing pressure in high-stakes situations, and strengthening my ability to bounce back from setbacks

with a positive mindset. This will help me navigate the demands of the Community Solutions Program while maintaining my well-being.

7. Given that our placement process prioritizes opportunities for collaboration, learning, and impact on smaller U.S. cities, how would you approach placement that does not align with your preferences (E.g., geographic location, home stay, practicum task, etc.)? What are your strategies for handling surprises and possible disappointments? Please describe how you would handle this situation and how you might leverage the experience for professional growth.

If I were placed in a situation that does not align with my preferences, I would approach it with an open mind and a positive attitude, recognizing the value in every opportunity for personal and professional growth. I would first focus on understanding the bigger picture, knowing that the placement process prioritizes collaboration, learning, and impact, especially in smaller U.S. cities. I would make an effort to embrace the new environment, whether it's a different geographic location, homestay arrangement, or practicum task, as an opportunity to expand my skill set and knowledge.

My strategy for handling surprises and disappointments would involve remaining flexible, practising resilience, and maintaining clear communication with my mentors or colleagues. I would focus on staying solution-oriented and adjusting my expectations to be more in line with the reality of the experience.

I would also seek out ways to leverage this experience for professional growth by identifying transferable skills, gaining new insights, and finding creative ways to contribute to the organisation's mission, no matter how different it may be from my initial expectations. By embracing the unexpected and viewing challenges as learning opportunities, I could grow more adaptable, resourceful, and innovative in my work. Ultimately, I would recognise that these experiences can significantly enrich my perspective and contribute to my long-term goals of impact, sustainability, and collaboration.

8. Following the completion of the U.S.-based portion of their fellowship, Community Solutions fellows are required to complete a local initiative or project in their home community. The project integrates what fellows learned during the Community Solutions experience into their community work back home. If you were to identify a project to complete following your U.S.-based experience, what would your project be? Please describe your project, including the beneficiaries, activities, and goals, being as specific as possible.

Following my U.S.-based experience, I would focus on advancing the Uganda Carbon Registry and the non-profit organisation I founded to support Uganda's transition to a net-zero economy by reducing carbon emissions and promoting carbon credit initiatives. The project targets local farmers, SMEs, government, international organisations, individuals and community-based organisations as beneficiaries, helping them adopt climate-smart practices and contribute to carbon reduction efforts.

The key activities of the Uganda Carbon Registry include measuring, tracking, and reporting carbon emissions, educating local communities on how to reduce emissions through practices, establishing a local carbon fund to purchase credits from certified projects, and running workshops to raise awareness about the importance of carbon reduction.

The goal of this organisation is to reduce carbon emissions, empower local communities through carbon credit generation, and create economic opportunities through the carbon fund while contributing to Uganda's long-term transition to a net-zero economy.

The initiative would integrate knowledge gained during the U.S.-based portion of the fellowship to strengthen the role of the Uganda Carbon Registry in climate action, fostering sustainable development and climate resilience in Uganda.