



stimulating sustainable business

Round Table Update - April 2010

Round Table Africa (RTA) is set-up to stimulate expertise development in the area of sustainable business in Southern and Eastern Africa.

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Round Table on Commercial Forestry

On March 25, 2010 the Round Table on Commercial Forestry was held in Kampala, Uganda. The theme was structured into three inter-related topics of discussion:

1. Responsible and sustainable development through encouragement and simulation of sustainable commercial forest management
2. Market accessibility for sustainably managed and produced forestry products
3. Inclusion of communities in commercial forestry value chains with an aim of poverty reduction

The deliberations in the workshop centered on the challenges of integrating the three focus areas of the theme into a viable project as per the proposed framework presented before and during the workshop. The proposed design of a public-private partnership project in commercial forestry will be adapted in order to succeed in terms of achieving global market access for particular value added wood products. This is intended to benefit a particular group of forestry growers in terms of increased incomes from their wood harvests.

Research Project on Tourism Partnerships

A research project on Tourism Partnerships was launched on December 15, 2009 in Arusha. It is being conducted by Laura Tarimo and Diederik de Boer. Laura Tarimo will be working in close cooperation with the RTA-DBA students in the field of tourism.

The project team had a mission to Nairobi, Kenya on February 24-26, 2010. They visited Eco-tourism Kenya and held an interview with an Eco-rating officer on tourism partnerships in Kenya for comparative purposes with cases in Tanzania. Furthermore they had talks to managers of Porini Mara Camp and Basecamp Kenya, tourism lodges in Kenya with a high rating on responsible practices with respect to wildlife conservation and community development.

Near Lake Naivasha the team visited the farms which are involved in the project 'Potatoes in Kenya' conducted by the RTA researcher Joseph Gichuru Wang'ombe. Talks were held with entrepreneurs and potential investors for sustainable potato processing in Nairobi.

Upcoming Round Tables

May 19, 2010: Round Table on Horticulture in Uganda

June 3, 2010: Round Table on Responsible Tourism Partnerships in Arusha, Tanzania

The Round Table will bring together stakeholders from central and local government, private sector companies, community

representatives and NGO's working in the tourism sector to discuss current local and global trends in Responsible Tourism, and to gather inputs for the implementation of a Responsible Tourism Certification Scheme in Tanzania.

16th Jul 2010: Round Table on Gold in Tanzania

Refresher Course Research Methods in Arusha

In February 2010 a Refresher Course on Research Methods was organized for the Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) students of the Round Table Africa Program. Twenty students from Southern and Eastern African countries came to ESAMI Business School in Arusha (Tanzania) to follow the training workshop which was taught by Prof. Robert Goedegebuure and Jakomijn van Wijk.

The students were invited to refresh their knowledge on quantitative and qualitative research techniques. Besides lectures and group assignments, individual meetings were arranged to further discuss the research proposals in detail. This was an enjoyable and fruitful week in which students working on similar topics or adopting similar research strategies intensively exchanged ideas, knowledge and literature. The workshop thus allowed the DBA students to reflect on their methodology and sharpen and adjust their research proposals accordingly.

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