



GEF BBL Series

Conserving our Global Freshwater Future in Africa

**Speaker: Colin Apse, Africa Freshwater Conservation Director,
The Nature Conservancy**

Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 12:15pm-1:30pm
8th Floor Conference Room

Lunch will be served

RSVP (cbarnerias@thegef.org) by 11/07/2016 COB

GEF staff will wait in lobby to escort guests until 12:10pm

In Africa, more than \$8 billion in water infrastructure investments currently flow into the Sub-Saharan region annually, funding infrastructure projects such as dams, large scale irrigation, and water treatment facilities. An unprecedented transformation is underway in African watersheds. We have a fleeting opportunity to deliver proactive solutions that enable leaders to make wise choices and show the world a better, more balanced way to grow. To do this, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is focused on large freshwater systems with global ecological importance, where enabling political and social conditions for conservation exist, and where there is potential for high return on conservation investment. Replication and scaling are built into TNC's business plans from the start to ensure that the methods developed in one place can efficiently deliver much broader impacts. Several TNC initiatives are currently under way in Africa, including: 1) work to promote source water protection (e.g., Africa Water Funds), 2) development of system-scale planning for sustainable water infrastructure (e.g., "hydropower by design"), and 3) the Great Lakes to Great Lakes Initiative with associated information-sharing network and African Great Lakes Conference. This presentation will be an overview of these three initiatives.

TNC is working in 69 countries around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. Guided by science, TNC pursues solutions to the most pressing conservation threats facing our planet.

Speaker's Bio

Colin Apse is Freshwater Conservation Director for The Nature Conservancy's Africa Region. He has over fifteen years of experience at TNC working on freshwater ecosystem conservation and sustainable water management solutions. He is motivated by the belief that wisely managing our scarce freshwater resources to meet rapidly growing human needs --without sacrificing the rich life that healthy lakes and rivers support -- is one of the world's most pressing challenges.



In Africa, for the last five years Colin has been at the center of project development for TNC's freshwater efforts in Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia and Gabon and now acts in a supporting role for TNC staff hired to lead these projects. This includes work on the Ogooué River Basin of Gabon designed to support sustainable water resource development of this astounding, but little known, watershed. Fisheries and watershed conservation efforts are ongoing on Lake Tanganyika as part of the Tuungane Project, an integrated human and environmental health project focused around the Mahale Mountains in Tanzania. The Upper Tana-Nairobi Water Fund project has received global attention for its collaborative approach to improve water security for the city of Nairobi as well as rural farmers, and TNC is developing a similar project for the Kafue River watershed in Zambia and in Cape Town, South Africa.

Colin co-led the development of a freshwater sustainable development blueprint for the Magdalena River Basin in Colombia which is now being used as the basis of a major conservation and development collaboration between TNC and the Colombian government. Similar blueprint efforts are now underway in Gabon and for Lake Tanganyika with Colin's support. Colin's first decade with the Conservancy was focused in the United States on developing strategies and policy approaches that balance human water use and environmental water needs – such as fish passage and adequate flow - at state and river basin scales.

Colin received a B.A. from Duke University and a Master's degree in environmental management focused on aquatic ecology from Yale University. He lives and works out of Portland, Maine when not at TNC's project offices in Africa.