MEMBER PROFILE

Harris Phiri

Lake Tanganyika Science Advisory Group

About my work

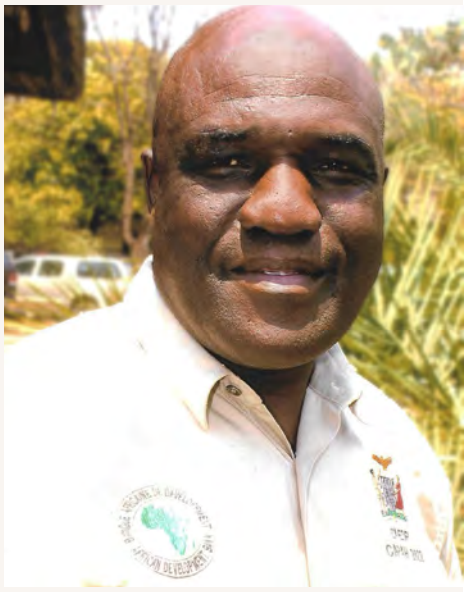
I recently retired from formal employment as director of the Department of Fisheries in Zambia. I worked there for 34 years, rising through the ranks. Prior to that, I worked as a researcher on Lake Tanganyika and other water bodies in the country. My areas of experience included conducting studies on fish population dynamics, frame surveys, ecological surveys, gillnet surveys, and limnological surveys. My expertise includes freshwater ecology; conservation biology; fish stock assessment; project planning, management, and evaluation; and fisheries management, among others. I have authored and co-authored several papers on Lake Tanganyika.

Inspiration for this work

My interest in conservation works and nature in general inspired me to join the Department of Fisheries after graduation from university. I started getting involved in conservation works while I was an undergraduate student at the University of Zambia. This interest was further enhanced when I met several renowned scientists from around the world at a conference in Bujumbura in 1991.

Something else about myself

I enjoy interacting with other professionals in aquatic sciences and beyond, and so I find moments at meetings quite enriching. I also enjoy being around nature, both aquatic and terrestrial. My hobbies include listening to music, traveling, reading, and playing board games like chess and drafts.



MEMBER PROFILE

Lisa Sonnenburg

Cultural Resource Management Advisor, Parks Canada

About my work

I have been studying submerged archaeological landscapes since 2004 and have managed to do this on four of the five Great Lakes! I am currently the cultural resource management advisor for Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area, which covers over 10,000 square kilometers of water and includes 600 islands. This work is a collaborative effort with Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge holders and communities, academic institutions, and government departments to document and protect the cultural resources for current and future generations.

Inspiration for this work

I first became interested in submerged landscapes during my undergraduate degree at Lakehead University when I found out that a stone tool was recovered off the coast of Haida Gwaii, in an area that was above water during the early Holocene. I was fortunate to pursue this type of research during my graduate degrees at McMaster University and a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Michigan. I spent five years in the consulting industry before joining Parks Canada in 2020.

Something else about myself

Twenty-five years ago, I moved to a small community on the north shore of Lake Superior to work as a figure skating instructor. That's when I first fell in love with the Great Lakes.

