

# **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

# **EMPOWERING DEVELOPMENT**

**3<sup>rd</sup> INTERNATIONAL OFF-GRID  
RENEWABLE ENERGY CONFERENCE  
& EXHIBITION**

**In partnership with**



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND PETROLEUM



**Alliance for  
Rural  
Electrification**  
*Shining a Light for Progress*



# Biographies

## **Adnan Z. Amin, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)**

Director-General



Adnan Z. Amin was elected as the Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency in April 2011. In his capacity he is charged with the responsibility of establishing a sound institutional management structure and clear strategic vision for the implementation of the agency's mandate to promote the adoption and use of renewable energy worldwide. Mr. Amin brings to this position over 25 years of experience in the fields of international environment and sustainable development policy, as well as in the political, management, and interagency coordination functions of the United Nations (UN) work. Mr. Amin served as Head of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) Secretariat. Mr. Amin also served as the Executive Director of the Secretariat of the Secretary-General's High Level Panel, co-chaired by the Prime Ministers of Mozambique, Norway and Pakistan, on UN System-wide Coherence. The Panel undertook an ambitious and unprecedented level of consultation on development, environment, and humanitarian aspects of the work of the UN System and proposed an ambitious reform programme that still continues in the UN General Assembly under the framework of the "One UN".

## **H.E. Charles Keter, Ministry of Energy and Environment, Kenya**

Cabinet Secretary



As Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum, Hon. Charles Keter is responsible for the oversight, policy and governance of the Ministry's mandate; to facilitate the provision of clean, sustainable, affordable, reliable, secure and quality Energy and Petroleum services, for national development while protecting the environment. His main focus is on the national key flagship projects under the Jubilee Government, which incorporates: Universal Electricity Access, Transmission and Infrastructure Development, Commercialization of Crude Oil, Security of Supply for Petroleum Products and the Accelerated Generation of Power amongst others. Implementing the Ministry's mission in support of the Governments goals of growing the economy, will advance the energy and petroleum strategy thus promoting leadership in the sector and region's technology, innovation, management and performance.

Preceding his appointment in December 2015, Hon. Charles Keter was the Senator for Kericho County and Deputy Leader of Majority in Senate from 2013 till 2015. During his 13 year career in politics, Hon. Keter was also the Assistant Minister for Energy and Petroleum between 2008 and 2010 and a Member of Parliament for Belgut Constituency, which was rated the best in (CDF) Constituency Development Fund management in the year 2012. His Political career was preceded by nine years of experience in the Telecommunications Sector, with expertise in Information Technology, Systems Analysis and Anti-fraud, as assistant manager of Anti Fraud Section, Telkom (K) limited. Hon. Charles Keter holds a Global Executive MBA from the United States International University (USIU) - Africa and a Bachelors Degree in Double Maths from Kenyatta University.

### **Aaron Leopold, Practical Action**

Global Energy Representative



Aaron Leopold is a thought leader on decentralized renewable energy policy, business models and finance. As Practical Action's Global Energy Representative, he is co-author of the annual flagship Poor People's Energy Outlook report and works with donors and financiers to develop and implement best practices within the energy access space. Aaron is also the Deputy Director of the Power for All partnership and campaign, and serves on the Private Sector Advisory Group of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE), and the Access Committee of the Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) initiative. Prior to coming to Practical Action, Aaron was Director of Environment & Sustainable Development at the Global Governance Institute, a Brussels-based think tank.

### **AbuBakr S Bahaj, University of Southampton**

Head, Energy and Climate Change Division



AbuBakr Bahaj leads the 55-strong Energy and Climate Change Division at the University of Southampton, where he completed his PhD, progressing from a researcher to a Personal Chair in Sustainable Energy. For more than 25 years, Professor Bahaj has pioneered sustainable energy research and established the energy theme within the University. His major research programmes can be found at [www.energy.soton.ac.uk](http://www.energy.soton.ac.uk). These include Cities and Infrastructure, Data and Modelling, Energy and Behaviour, Energy and Buildings, Energy for Development, Environmental Impacts, Microgeneration Technologies and Renewable Energy (Solar Photovoltaics and Marine Energy). Professor Bahaj's work has resulted in over 280 articles, published in academic refereed journals and conference series of international standing. He founded the International Journal of Marine Energy (IJOME) which he is the Editor-in-Chief. In 2012, Prof Bahaj was appointed Chief Scientific Advisor to Southampton City Council—believed to be the first such appointment in the UK and in 2014, the UK's Science Council named him as one of the UK's 100 leading practising scientists.

## **Andrew M. Herscowitz, Power Africa**

Coordinator



Andrew M. Herscowitz is the coordinator for President Barack Obama's Power Africa initiative. Prior to this appointment, he served as USAID's mission director in Ecuador from 2011 to 2013, and as deputy mission director in Peru from 2009 to 2011.

In 2008, Herscowitz served as USAID's supervisory regional legal adviser for Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. From 2002 to 2007, he was regional legal adviser for the Caribbean, providing services to Barbados, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti and Jamaica.

After joining USAID in 2001, Herscowitz served as the lawyer for USAID's Office of Development Credit, which has leveraged hundreds of millions of dollars in private sector funds through its Development Credit Authority loan guarantee program. He also worked with the USAID legal team that designed the original framework for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. He began his career in international development as a consultant with Probe International.

Following graduation from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, Herscowitz spent a year as a Georgetown volunteer in Nicaragua. After earning a law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center, he worked for the law firms of Piper & Marbury (now DLA Piper) and Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison in Washington, D.C. While at Piper, he was named pro bono lawyer of the year for running a Boy Scouts of America Law Explorers program for inner-city youth and for successfully helping victims of political persecution obtain asylum in the United States.

In 2005, the Federal Bar Association recognized Herscowitz as one of the five most outstanding lawyers under the age of 35 in the U.S. Government.

## **Andy Schroeter, Sunlabob Renewable Energy, Ltd.**

Co-Founder and CEO



Andy Schroeter, a German national, founder/Director/shareholder of Sunlabob Renewable Energy Co. Ltd., is a successful German entrepreneur, who has over 30 years of technical experience in renewable energy, infrastructure and operational logistics. During his 25 years of experience as company designer and manager, he has implemented numeral visions of technical and design concepts that many have never thought possible. Andy is a professional in project and company design, management, technical design as well as practical implementation of renewable energy conceptions, financial management and rural development. His work with Sunlabob Renewable Energy Co. Ltd. has had a significant effect on infrastructural development in many regions of the world.

His projects in the field of renewable energy have been recognized and awarded by the Development Marketplace of the World Bank in 2005, the German Solar Award 2005 and BBC World Challenge in 2006, awarded by the Ashden Award in 2007 and the African Lighting Award organized by the World Bank. In 2010, he won the Entrepreneur of the Year Award (Asian Region) by the Schwab Foundation.

### **António Osvaldo Saíde, FUNAE, Mozambique**

CEO



Mr Saide started out his career as a lecturer on architecture, agronomy and science, he has a strong and versatile academic background; with an undergraduate degree in Physics and an MBA on Renewable Energy at Beuty University in Germany. He has over 10 years of experience in the energy and renewable energy sectors, including heading different sectors in the National Directorate of Energy in Maputo.

Mr. Saide also represented South Africa in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership International Board from 2009-2011 and was a key player in coordinating the development of renewable energy policies and biofuel strategies for Mozambique.

As he has served as the National Director of New and Renewable Energy at the Ministry of Energy for almost a decade, Antonio O. Saide is an indispensable figure in Mozambique's energy sector. Currently, Mr Saide is the Chief Executive Officer of Fundo de Energia (FUNAE), Mozambique.

### **Arunabha Ghosh, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)**

CEO



Dr Arunabha Ghosh has been CEO of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) since its founding in August 2010. CEEW has been consistently ranked (third year running) as South Asia's leading policy research institution across several categories; and among the world's 20 best climate think-tanks in 2016. With work experience in 38 countries and having previously worked at Princeton, Oxford, UNDP (New York) and WTO (Geneva), Arunabha advises governments, industry, civil society and international organisations around the world. He is the co-author or co-editor of four books and dozens of research papers and reports. He is a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader and in 2016 was appointed to the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Energy. He is an Asia Society Asia 21 Young Leader, and fellow of the Aspen Global Leadership Network.

### **Caspar Priesemann, GIZ**

Energy Access Advisor



Caspar Priesemann is advisor on energy access and agricultural energy use at Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. His tasks comprise conceptualizing and implementing research projects with a particular focus on pro-poor strategies for improved access to environmentally sound energy systems. Caspar holds an M.A. in International Relations and an M.Sc. in Renewable Energy.

### **Charles Ahenda-Bengo, Futurepump**

General Manager



Charles heads up the operations of Futurepump's B2C pilot cluster in the Kisumu and Homa Bay regions. Charles is a qualified mechanical engineer and has previously worked with the Geothermal Development Corporation (GDC) where he worked as a Project Engineer.

### **Charles Nichols, SunCulture**

CTO & Co-Founder



Charles is co-founder and chief technology officer at SunCulture. He studied mechanical engineering at Stevens Institute of Technology and economics at The City University of New York. Prior to co-founding SunCulture, Charles founded two technology businesses and designed solar photovoltaic systems for IPP Solar, a commercial developer of large solar power projects. He is a Kilimanjaro Society Member of Books for Africa, the largest shipper of donated text and library books to the African continent.

### **Christine Eibs Singer, Power for All**

Director of Global Advocacy



Christine Eibs Singer is Director of Global Advocacy for the Power for All campaign and is also a Senior Advisor to the United Nations Sustainable Energy for All Initiative, focusing on the development of financing innovations to accelerate energy access. She is a Co-Founder of E+Co, a pioneer in the energy access and impact investment sector and was a founding member of the Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs. Her Board seats include SELCO India and the Dalberg Trust and she is a member of the Investment Committee of the Deutsche Bank Essential Capital Consortium. Christine also chaired the investment panel for the GSMA M4D Utilities programme. Ms. Singer is an Ambassador of the C3E Women in Energy Initiative and an Ashden Awards judge.

### **Daniel Schroth, African Development Bank**

SE4All Africa Hub Coordinator



Dr. Daniel Schroth is the coordinator of the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) Africa Hub hosted by the AfDB in the Energy, Environment and Climate Change Department in partnership with the AU, NEPAD and UNDP. Daniel also coordinates inter alia the Africa Climate Technology and Finance Center project, the Bank's engagement in the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund and the Secretariat to the African Energy Leaders Group. Daniel has extensive experience in energy policy. Prior to joining the AfDB, he worked for several years for the European Commission in both headquarters and the field, for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and in the private sector. Daniel holds a Ph.D. and Masters in International Relations with a focus on international energy policy from the University of Cambridge, and business degrees from Reims Management School and the European School of Business Reutlingen.

### **Dean Cooper, Parallax – Sustainable Energy Solutions**

Managing Director



Dean Cooper is currently Chair of the Steering Committee for the SE4All Clean Energy Mini-Grids High Impact Opportunity (HIO) and MD of Parallax – Sustainable Energy Solutions. He has worked closely with the public and private sectors, aiming to achieve practical results for clean energy access, particularly in developing countries. He previously spent 7 years as Energy Finance Programme Manager with the United Nations Environment Programme in Paris, focusing on how to scale-up investment to build sustainable clean energy technology markets. Prior to joining UNEP, Dean completed an MBA (distinction) before establishing the Parallax business in

South Africa and the UK. His prior experience included the Best Practice Programme for the UK Energy Agency, then 4 years as Head of Co-operation with Developing Countries for the European Commission's Energy Directorate, before being seconded to the Department of Minerals and Energy in South Africa to build EU/SA energy development co-operation, and then to Botswana for closer links with the Southern Africa Development Community.

### **Debajit Palit, TERI India**

Associate Director & Senior Fellow



Mr Debajit Palit works in the field of clean energy access, distributed generation, rural electrification policy and regulation, solar photovoltaics, and biomass gasification.

Mr Palit joined TERI in 1998 and has been since working on projects related to technology adaptation, resource assessment and energy planning; project implementation; policy and regulatory studies; monitoring and impact assessment; and capacity building. He has vast national and international experience working in projects for UN organisations, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and National Governments across India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, and Thailand in Asia; and Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Uganda in Africa. He has authored a book on rural electricity distribution franchisees, edited various books, contributed around 30 technical papers in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings, and has participated in more than 30 national and international conferences and workshops. He is also leading the 'Lighting for All' Working Group under the Energy for All Partnership of Asian Development Bank. Mr Palit holds a Masters degree in Physics and has completed post graduate diploma in Non-Conventional Energy Technology.

### **Diala Hawila, IRENA**

Associate Programme Officer



Diala Hawila has been working in the Policy Unit of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) since 2012, on topics related to policy assessment and the socio-economic impacts of renewable energy, on projects including Renewable Energy and Jobs, The Socio-economic Benefits of Solar and Wind Energy, Renewable Energy Benefits: Leveraging Local Industries and Renewable Energy Benefits: Decentralised Solutions in the Agri-food Chain. Diala has obtained her Master's degree in Engineering Systems and Management from the Masdar Institute in Abu Dhabi, focusing on sustainability and renewable energy. Before that, she worked as a consultant at PricewaterhouseCoopers, offering advisory services to government entities in fields including energy and waste management.



### **Dipal Barua, Bright Green Energy Foundation (BGEF)**

Founder and Chairman



Mr. Dipal C. Barua, Founder & Chairman of Bright Green Energy Foundation (BGEF) has devoted more than 35 years of his life, finding sustainable market based solutions for the social and economic problems faced by the rural people. He is the Founding Managing Director, Grameen Shakti and the Co-Founder & Former Deputy Managing Director of Grameen Bank. He is one of the co-founders of Grameen Bank, and occupied the number two position of this Nobel Prize Winning organization up to December 2009.

He is one of the key forces in expanding renewable energy technologies in Bangladesh. He designed and implemented one of most successful models for taking solar PV technology to the rural people on a mass scale. His model has been adopted by the World Bank to expand solar technology through Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL). Over 4 million Solar Home Systems have been successfully installed in Bangladesh till April 2016, benefitting over 25 million rural people. He has successfully demonstrated that renewable energy technology especially solar technology is a viable alternative for the rural people –they can be reached through a market based model.

### **Divyam Nagpal, IRENA**

Associate Programme Officer



Divyam Nagpal is an Associate Programme Officer in IRENA's Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre. Within the Policy Unit, he works on a broad range of projects, including renewable energy policy assessment, off-grid renewables for energy access and the water, energy and food nexus. He has co-authored several major publications. Prior to joining IRENA, he worked in the United Kingdom and India focusing on techno-economic and financial assessments of large-scale and off-grid renewable energy projects, as well as on sector-level energy efficiency benchmarking. He is a mechanical engineer by training and has an MSc in Sustainable Energy Futures from Imperial College London

### **Duncan Onyango, Acumen Fund**

East Africa Director



Duncan Onyango is Director of East Africa for Acumen Fund Inc., a nonprofit global venture fund that invests in companies, leaders and ideas to change the way the world tackles poverty. Onyango oversees Acumen's portfolio of companies working in agriculture, energy, education, health care, housing and water and sanitation. Since 2007, Acumen has invested more than \$35 million in social enterprises across East Africa. Prior to Acumen, Onyango served as the Group Chief Finance Officer of Rift Valley Railways, where he led the structuring of a \$287M debt and equity capital investment in the rail sector. He began his career with over ten years at Abbey National, a major international bank in London, gaining cross-functional business experience in both the retail and corporate arms of Abbey, including serving as the bank's Head of Training & Management Development for the Wealth Management Division. Building on that experience, Onyango moved into consulting at Strategic Workforce Limited in London, before returning to East Africa where he founded Quantum Africa in 2006, working with many small businesses and entrepreneurs. He has expertise in strategic & business planning, organizational alignment and business transformation. He has extensive global board experience and now serves on the boards of the Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF) and TradeMark East Africa. Onyango is a graduate of Oxford University.

### **Eric Angadia Mmene, One Acre Fund**

Government Specialist



In February 2013, Eric joined One Acre Fund, first as a Local Government Relations Officer in Kisii rising to his current position of Government Relations Specialist in Nairobi. During this period, he engaged a range of government and private sector stakeholders to ensure the organization's regulatory compliance and government support to One Acre Fund's services to small scale. In his current role, Eric is building out One Acre Fund's network in the national Ministry of Agriculture, liaising with regulators and policy stakeholders alike, and has also recently engaged the Energy Regulatory Commission and Greenlight Planet around One Acre Fund's work with solar products and renewable energy solutions.

Eric was born in Nakuru and studied at Sacho High School before pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Seed Science and Technology at Moi University, Eldoret graduating in 2011. He is currently finalizing on his Master of Business Administration (Strategic Management) thesis at Mount Kenya University.

### **Evah Oduor, IEC- AFRC**

Regional Director



Evah Oduor holds a Master of Science Degree in Biochemistry from the University of Nairobi. Before working for the IEC, Evah worked with Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) and held the positions of Director Standards and International Trade and KEBS Managing Director. Evah has over 30 year experience in Standardization, Conformity Assessment and Metrology and has participated in several trade negotiations over the last 15 years, with active participation in the EAC and COMESA region on issues of Standardization and Conformity Assessment.

### **Felix Ngamlagosi, EWURA, Tanzania**

Director General



Mr. Felix Ngamlagosi was appointed member of the Board of Directors of EWURA in February, 2014. He is the Director General of EWURA, following the expiry of the two-four year terms of the first Director General, Mr. Haruna Masebu, on 31st December 2013.

He worked with the Ministry of Water, Energy and Minerals and thereafter the Ministry of Water for total of 17 years in various capacities, rising through the ranks to Senior Economist. He also contributed as a co-expert in water sector public expenditure reviews by the Economic and Social Research Foundation (2001 – 2002) and by the Economic Research Bureau (ERB) of the University of Dar Es Salaam (2003 – 2005).

He completed MSc. in Economics from Moscow Finance Academy, Russia (1990 – 1996); Post Graduate Diploma in Policy and Project Planning from the Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Hague – Netherlands (year 2000); Full Technician Certificate in Water Engineering from the Water Resources Institute (1984 – 1987); and is a Certified Regulation Specialist - an award jointly conferred by the Institute for Public-Private Partnerships (IP3) of Washington, United States of America; and the Water, Engineering and Development Centre of Loughborough University (WEDC/LU) of the United Kingdom (2013).

### **Francois Yapo Ahoti, IEC-AFRC**

Regional Director



François Yapo Ahoti, Regional Director for IEC Africa Regional Center, comes to the IEC from United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), where he was the Chief Technical Advisor for an EU funded project on improving the quality infrastructure in Haiti. He has extensive experience in Standardization at national, regional and international levels, Certification, Conformity assessment, Management systems and quality tools, Technical barriers to Trade, Normative and Technical regulation information dissemination. François also worked for the National Standards Body of Côte d'Ivoire (CODINORM) for nearly 20 years, where he was successively acted Chief of the Information Center, Director of Standardization and Certification Departments and Secretary General. Additionally, he helped establish and structure the IEC National Electrotechnical Committee of Côte d'Ivoire and then Haiti. He recently helped to establish the NEC of Mauritania, Benin, Togo and Congo.

### **Graham Smith, Off Grid Electric**

Senior Director of New Markets



Graham Smith leads international growth efforts and government relations for the Africa and San Francisco-based solar energy company Off Grid Electric. He previously served in executive roles related to corporate finance and strategic partnerships, as well as business development.

Prior to Off Grid Electric, Graham held positions in consulting and finance, working with organizations across the private and public sectors. He also spent several years with the Clinton Foundation, developing approaches to improve healthcare systems and to increase access to medicines for over 70 Latin American, Asian and African countries, as well as securing funding for Sub-Saharan African countries and acting as an advisor to national governments.

Graham has studied at Stanford University, Oxford University and Queen's University. He was a Skoll Associate Fellow at Oxford and was named an Ideas Scholar by Atlantic Magazine and the Aspen Institute.

### **Guilherme Collares Pereira, Energias de Portugal (EDP)**

Director of International Relations - Access to Energy



With his 28 years of successful business experience at the management, marketing and commercial level in competitive, dynamic and first line sectors, and leading various business associations in Portugal and abroad, Mr Guilherme Collares Pereira became the Social Innovation Director of the EDP Foundation in 2007. Since 2013 he is the International Relations Director - Access to Energy, at the EDP and he is a representative in the Network of Experts Access to Energy in EURELECTRIC - Electricity for Europe; and on the Energy Access Practitioner Network of UN Foundation / SE4ALL. He graduated in Management at ISCTE and holds a postgraduate degree in International Economics from the University of Nancy, France, to which he added an Executive Master in Corporate Sustainability, Business and Environment INDEG / ISCTE. He is fluent in Portuguese, Spanish, French and English.

### **H.R.H Princess Abze Djigma, AbzeSolar, Mali**

CEO



HRH Princess Abze Djigma is the Mossi Princess from Burkina Faso and a direct descendant of Princess Yennenga a famous warrior in the 12th century. She is Founder and CEO AbzeSolar S.A. Her other associations are: Board Member of UNISDR Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies, Energy Focal Point and Regional leader for Africa; President Senior Advisor External Relations and Gender for the Center Region Council of Burkina Faso (C.R.C); Initiator and leader of the 'MAMA-LIGHT® Initiative for Sustainable Energy", a world-wide program that provides access to affordable energy for women, small business and children. It empowers the informal sector, it drives the generation of new jobs and it creates a sound basis for gender equality and women empowerment. The program is selected by the United Nations as one of the 14 global breakthrough solutions for achieving the new Sustainable Development Goals.

### **Habiba Ali, Sosai Renewable Energies**

Managing Director and CEO



Ms Habiba Ali has been with the renewable energy industry for since 2005 where she started by Working with Developmental Association for Renewable Energies (DARE) as a co-founder and National Coordinator. She worked on the CDM project Efficient Cook Stoves for Nigeria, The Solar Lamps Assembly and sales training programme, Solar Dryers for Healthy foods project and a host of others. With the knowledge and experience gathered, she branched out to handle the commercial aspects of the renewable energy industry by launching Sosai. Sosai Renewable Energies offers efficient, reliable and sustainable products for example solar lamps, solar home systems and water filters to the people of mostly the rural and peri urban communities of Northern Nigeria. She has a Bachelor's degree in Accounting, A master's in Banking and Finance and currently at Dissertation level of PhD in Management (Finance).

### Harish Hande, SELCO India

Co-Founder



Harish Hande is the co-founder and Chairman of SELCO Solar Light Pvt Ltd, a social enterprise established in 1995 that provides affordable renewable energy services to the poor and underserved households in rural India. He is the CEO of SELCO Foundation an open source, not for profit platform creating solutions linking sustainable energy to poverty eradication.

Harish, a graduate from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur and a Masters and PhD from University of Massachusetts, US, returned to India to start SELCO in 1994-95 after experiencing benefits of solar energy in rural areas of Dominican Republic and Sri Lanka. Having installed the first 1000 home lighting systems on his own and over 2,10,000 households now through his company SELCO India, Harish is recognized as a pioneer of rural energy service across the globe. He and his company have received many national and international awards including the Ashden award (2005 and 2007). Harish was one of the 21 CEOs invited to meet US President Barrack Obama during his visit to Mumbai last year. In 2008, he was chosen by Business Today as one of the 21 young leaders for India's 21st century. In mid 2008, India Today named him one of the 50 pioneers of change in India. He was awarded with Asia's prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for 2011 for "his pragmatic efforts to put solar power technology in the hands of the poor, through his social enterprise SELCO India".

### Izael Pereira Da Silva, Strathmore University

Professor



Prof. Izael Pereira Da Silva has a PhD in Power Systems Engineering from the University of Sao Paulo (Brazil). He is also a Certified Energy Manager (CEM). At present he is an Professor at Strathmore University and the Deputy Vice Chancellor – Research and Innovations. He is the Director of the Strathmore Energy Research Centre, SERC.

Prof. Da Silva has over 20 years of experience in the following areas of expertise: •Renewable Sources of Energy; •Efficient Use of Energy/Energy auditing – Demand Side Management; •Renewable Energy Policy ; •Rural Electrification and Sustainable Development

### Jane Oyugi, Sustenersol Company Ltd

Co-Founder and CEO



Jane Oyugi was raised in Tanzania and Kenya and is passionate about implementing solar projects to enable access to energy, water, health, education and economic development. She is Co-Founder and CEO of Sustenersol Company Ltd., a project developer in Tanzania focused on developing affordable and sustainable solar and energy efficiency projects. Sustenersol Company Ltd. delivers solar microgrid-in-a-box solutions, energy efficient LED lighting solutions and solar streetlights to schools, health facilities, farmers, villages, rural small businesses, municipalities and commercial/industrial customers in Tanzania. Previously, she was Vice President of Product at a solar microgrid provider, Director at a global Wi-Fi roaming provider, a senior management consultant at Deloitte Consulting and a software engineer with IBM. She has an MBA from Georgetown University and a B.S. in Computer Engineering from Syracuse University.

### **Jesse Moore, M-KOPA Solar**

CEO and Co-Founder



Jesse Moore is the CEO and Co-Founder of M-KOPA Solar, the world's leading provider of "pay-as-you-go" energy services for off-grid homes. M-KOPA Solar saves off-grid customers money by replacing kerosene with affordable renewable energy. Since its launch in 2012, M-KOPA has connected more than 375,000 homes to solar power across Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. And it is adding over 550 more homes each day. Jesse and the M-KOPA co-founders have been recognized at the 2016 Financial Times Arcelor Mittal – Boldness In Business Awards in the developing markets category. In 2015, M-KOPA was the winner of the prestigious Zayed Future Energy Prize and was recognized by Fortune Magazine as one of 50 companies changing the world.

Jesse is based in Nairobi and is responsible for the day to day running of the M-KOPA Solar business. He has grown M-KOPA to be a leading social enterprise brand. And the company employs over 851 employees and 1,728 direct sales representatives.

Previously he was the Director of the GSMA Development Fund, part of the association that works with industry to accelerate mobile services in low-income countries. He has consulted to Vodafone and Safaricom on the roll out of M-PESA.

Originally from Toronto, Canada, Jesse holds an MBA from Oxford University (Skoll Scholar) and a BA from the University of North Carolina (Morehead Scholar).

### **Jossy Thomas, UNIDO**

Industrial Development Officer



Mr. Jossy Thomas is currently an Industrial Development Officer and Officer –in –Charge of the Renewable and Rural Energy Division at the Energy Department of UNIDO. As long time Sustainable Energy practitioner, he has over 18 years of international technical cooperation experience with UN ESCAP, Bangkok and UNIDO. He has a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the National Institute of Technology, Bhopal, India, a Master's degree in Energy Technology from the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, and recently obtained an MBA from the Open University, UK.

### **Katharina Meder, GIZ**

Hub Manager East Africa



Katharina Meder is an expert in the water-energy-food nexus and sustainable development. She works for the global GIZ program Powering Agriculture where she manages the project's East Africa Hub. She holds a degree in Geography from the University of Heidelberg/Germany. Previously she was working for GIZ in Germany, Indonesia and Ethiopia, including secondments to the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the World Bank. Katharina is currently based in Nairobi/Kenya.



### **Katrina Pielli, Power Africa**

Senior Energy Advisor and Lead, Beyond the Grid



Katrina Pielli is Power Africa's Senior Energy Advisor and Lead for Beyond the Grid with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Ms. Pielli leads Power Africa's off-grid energy access team, Beyond the Grid, focused on adding 60 million new household and business connections in sub-Saharan Africa through off-grid energy solutions – household solar, small-scale renewable energy, and micro-grid technologies. She is also Power Africa's lead for energy efficiency and the nexus of energy access and energy efficiency. Ms. Pielli is seconded from the U.S. Department of Energy where she serves as a Senior Policy Advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency. Prior to joining USAID, Ms. Pielli held several positions in the U.S. government at the U.S. Department of Energy, the White House Council on Environmental Quality, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Ms. Pielli holds a Master's of Science in Environmental Management and Policy from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and a Bachelor's of Arts in Environmental Studies and Policy from Cornell College.

### **Lois Gicheru, Solafrique Limited**

Founder and CEO



Lois Gicheru is the Founder and CEO of Solafrique, a company committed to increasing access to electricity in Kenya. Solafrique has in the past provided energy consultancy services to rural based commercial entities and is currently developing a 1.5MW solar micro grid in rural Kenya. Lois was most recently awarded entrepreneur of the year award at the just concluded AEEP stakeholder's forum for her community mini grid model and was also recognized as an upcoming energy leader during President Obama's just concluded Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Accounting from Strathmore University and a Certificate in Supply Chain Sustainability from Rutgers University. Her passion is to provide affordable access to energy and related services for the off-grid and rural communities in Africa in a bid to attain and advance sustainable livelihoods.

### **Malick Seck, Touba Solar Rama**

General Manager



Malick Seck, 43 years old, has been managing Touba Solar Rama for almost 10 years. He was brought to the solar industry to address the energy issues in the off-grid rural areas in Senegal, where live about 60% of the population have do not have access to electricity. Mr. Seck believes that solar solutions and services are sustainable alternatives to bring positive changes in the lives of millions of under-served living in those remote areas. He launched a pay-as-you-go (payg) solar project, a game-changing concept designed for low-income rural communities that integrates solar energy and financial services.

### **Marcus Wiemann, Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE)**

Executive Director



Marcus Wiemann is the Executive Director of the Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE). He is responsible for the management and direction of ARE as well as for the relationship management with partners and developing organisations / institutions. In this regard he is a member of numerous steering committees and working groups who are active in the field of rural electrification. Marcus holds diplomas in Economics, International Relations/Developing Countries and Environmental Economics from the Universities of York and Trier. Marcus has a professional background from the finance and energy sector as well as in consultancy, advocacy and project management. Before Marcus joined ARE in 2013, Marcus established and led representation offices in Brussels of Verbundnetz Gas AG, EWE AG and of the International Association of Gas and Oil Producers (OGP).

### **Martijn Veen, SNV Tanzania**

Sector Leader Renewable Energy



Martijn Veen is an expert in environmental planning, rural development, natural resource management and renewable energy, with +10 years of professional experience, seeking synergies and innovative solutions in complex multi-stakeholder processes. Currently, Sector Leader and Senior Advisor Renewable Energy for SNV based in Tanzania, managing the renewable energy portfolio and leading a team of advisors and partners. Involved in strategic advisory services and knowledge brokering to local stakeholders, aimed to improve the livelihoods of rural and peri-urban people by accelerating the dissemination and use of renewable energy products and services for cooking and lighting, with market-based approaches and working closely together with the private sector. Before coming to Tanzania, Martijn worked for 7 years in several advisory positions for SNV in Latin America, based in Peru.

### **Michael Franz, Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP)**

Team Leader



Michael Franz is a senior adviser for energy in international cooperation for sustainable development, working for the EU Energy Initiative Partnership Dialogue Facility (EUEI PDF), based in Brussels. He coordinates the Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP), a European platform for promoting private sector participation and investment in renewables in Africa. He holds an MA degree in political science and geography from University of Trier, Germany. Over the past 10 years his work and interests have evolved around the nexus of energy project development, policy frameworks, and financing, towards mobilizing private and public investment in renewable energy and energy access projects in Africa. In previous functions, he worked for Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on a number of energy initiatives in East Africa.



### **Michael Opam, Energy Commission, Ghana**

Executive Secretary



Michael Opam holds a Master of Science in Energy Management and Policy, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA; Diplome D'Ingenieur in Petroleum Economics, Institut Francais du Petrole, Paris, France; BSc. Chemical Engineering, KNUST, Kumasi, Ghana. Michael Opam has over 30 years experience in Ghana's energy sector with his works covering energy development in renewable energy, power sector reforms and policy, petroleum sector deregulation and reforms as well as general energy planning and policy formulation. He is currently the Ag. Executive Secretary of the Energy Commission, Ghana which manages the regulation, development and utilization of energy resources in Ghana.

Michael was a Special Assistant/Advisor to the Minister of Energy from 2001 – 2003. He also served as a consultant to the Ministry of Communications and Technology in 2006 where he prepared the Financial Feasibility Study for the Government of Ghana to secure a US\$70 million EXIM Bank loan to develop the National Communications Backbone Infrastructure Project.

### **Michaela Pfeiffer, World Health Organization (WHO)**

Technical Officer



Michaela Pfeiffer has worked in the health development sector for 15 years on activities ranging from coordination of donor assistance, vulnerability impact assessments, to effectiveness evaluation of health interventions, including in humanitarian emergencies.

Michaela joined WHO's environment department in 2007 and has been leading WHO's global programme on Greening the Health Sector since 2014. In this capacity, she also serves as sustainability advisor to WHO.

Under the umbrella of Greening the Health Sector, Michaela is responsible for WHO's activities focused on health facility electrification. She is also WHO's operational focal point for the SE4ALL initiative "Energy for Women's and Children's Health".

### **Miguel Juan Revolo Acevedo, OSINERGMIN**

Manager Tariff Regulation



Dr. Miguel Revolo is an energy specialist with a background in power engineering, regulation and administration. He has more than 30 years of experience in the field. He has worked as distribution system engineer; in conceptual design, planning, supervision and operations of electricity distribution and supply systems.

As manager of distribution regulation in OSINERGMIN, the energy regulator in Peru, he has lead the setting of electricity distribution tariffs, the development of procedures and rules for the regulation of both urban and rural distribution networks, evaluation of metering and connection costs (post and pre-paid options), standardization of electric distribution components and setting of the first tariff for photovoltaic systems for rural applications. He holds the titles of Doctor in Business Administration, Master Science in the Electric Power Industry, Master in Economics and Regulation and Electrical Engineer.

### **Molly Ward, US Department of State**

Clean Energy Advisor



Molly Ward is a Clean Energy Advisor in the Bureau of Energy Resources at the State Department. In this role she is working to catalyse markets for global clean electricity access and helping to shape the U.S. strategy for post-COP21 clean energy implementation plans. Prior to the State Department, Molly was Deputy Associate Director for Energy & Climate Change at the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). In this position she worked to advance U.S. bilateral policy cooperation with foreign governments on clean energy and climate change. She also focused on U.S. efforts to bolster private sector engagement in international energy programs, as well as scaling up off-grid clean energy development and investments. Molly holds Masters degrees from Duke University in Environmental Management and in Public Policy and a Bachelor of Arts from Harvard University in Applied Mathematics.

### **Nico Peterschmidt, INENSUS**

Managing Director



Nico Peterschmidt, graduated in Energy Systems Engineering from Clausthal University of Technology, Germany in 2004, co-founded and became the Managing Director of the mini-grid consultancy company INENSUS in 2005. His consultancy assignments comprise mini-grid-policy development, -regulation drafting, -business model development and implementation, -financial modelling, -technical system design, -micro-utility structuring and operation, -customer management, -productive use development and -marketing strategies. He established JVs of INENSUS in Senegal (2008) and Tanzania (2014) which are mini-grid project developers and mini-grid operators selling electricity to rural customers.

### **Nicola Bugatti, ECREEE**

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Technical Advisor



Mr. Nicola Bugatti joined ECREEE, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Center for Renewable Energy and energy Efficiency in October 2013 as seconded expert of the Spanish International Development Cooperation Agency (AECID). Based at ECREEE head quarter in Praia, Cape Verde, he is currently coordinating the organization programs on project development and finance and access to sustainable electricity services.

Before joining ECREEE he had worked in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sector for more than 10 years with private companies, civil society organizations, United Nations and Governmental institutions.

### **Nicolas Fouassier, Pamoja Cleantech**

CEO



Nicolas Fouassier, CEO of Pamoja Cleantech is an experienced renewable energy engineer, with experience of developing biomass and solar based energy projects in primarily India and East Africa. He has pioneered new business models for off-grid applications in rural Uganda and has vast knowledge of challenges and opportunities for rural electrification

### **Ochieng Mbeo, Lake View Fisheries**

Chairman



Hon. Ochieng Mbeo is Chairman of Lake View Fisheries Ltd. Board of Directors. He is responsible for organization oversight and business development. He brings more than 30 years of leadership and executive management experience. He has served as a nominated Member of Parliament representing Kenya in the East African Legislative Assembly and as an elected Member of Parliament for Kasarani constituency. During his time at EALA, he spearheaded the Lake Victoria Development Program aimed at promoting economic and sustainable development in Lake Victori. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Political Science from Guilford College and a Masters in Business Administration from Thunderbird University.

### **Pablo Astorga, ABB**

Global Sales Manager Microgrids



Pablo Astorga is ABB's Global Sales Manager Microgrids. In this role, he is responsible for global microgrid sales and addresses the increasing need to efficiently integrate renewable energy systems into new and existing fossil fuel-based generation. Mr. Astorga has nearly a decade of extensive international experience in renewable energy and joined ABB in 2006 in Spain. In 2009 he relocated to the U.S. to develop ABB's solar business in the region and, after a successful 5 years in North America, he returned to Europe at the end of 2014. Mr. Astorga holds a Bachelor's degree in Telecommunications Engineering by the Technical University of Madrid and a M.Sc. in Digital Communications & Technology by Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden.

### **Peter Kinuthia, East African Community**

Senior Energy Officer



Peter N. Kinuthia is the Senior Energy Officer at the East African Community. He has over 20 years experience in the energy sector. He worked for 14 years at the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC), the power utility in Kenya, 12 of them as a planning engineer where he undertook power master plan development, supervise consultancy studies and different kinds of analyses for decision making. He left KPLC in 2007 as Senior Planning Engineer to join the East African Community, a Regional Economic Bloc of six countries (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda) as the Senior Energy Officer where he formulates and coordinates implementation of regional energy sector projects and programmes.

### **Peter Weston, Energy 4 Impact**

Director of Investment Advisory



Peter is Director of Investment Advisory at Energy 4 Impact, which provides commercial and technical advice to mini-grid developers and other off-grid enterprises in Sub Saharan Africa. He currently leads the E4I team that is working with the African Development Bank on business development support for their Green Mini-Grid Market Development Program. He is an expert in power and renewables, with 20 years of experience as an investor, lender and strategic adviser, much of it in developing countries. He is a non-executive director of Thrive Renewables, a community-oriented investor in small-sized renewable projects, and a Board Member of Renewable World, an NGO which alleviates poverty in developing countries through micro renewable projects. Peter is also a visiting lecturer at ESCP Business School. He was previously global head of finance and investment for two power equipment suppliers: Siemens Wind Power and MAN. He led the European energy lending team at GE Capital and was an executive director at Westdeutsche Landesbank. Peter has a BA in Economics and Politics from the University of Warwick.

### **Pierre-Antoine Berthold, Akuo Energy Africa**

CEO



Pierre-Antoine Berthold has extensive experience as a multidisciplinary entrepreneur in the industrial sector in Europe and West Africa (optical disks, data mining, solar PV). He joined Akuo Energy in early 2013 to cofound Akuo Energy Africa and supervise the development of the Group's activities across the African continent. Pierre-Antoine holds a TRIUM (NYU, LSE, HEC) Global Executive MBA.

### **Rabia Ferroukhi, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)**

Head of Policy Unit and Deputy Director – Knowledge, Policy and Finance



Dr. Rabia Ferroukhi joined IRENA in 2011 where she is currently the Deputy Director of the Knowledge, Policy and Finance division. She also leads IRENA's Policy Unit, which is responsible for the work on a range of renewable energy policy issues including design, socio-economic benefits and integrated resource management. Dr. Ferroukhi brought to this position over 20 years of experience in the fields of energy, development and environment. She worked in both public and private sectors, including with governments in the Middle-East and North Africa, energy companies in the Mediterranean region and the GCC, and international institutions.

Dr. Ferroukhi holds a Masters in Applied Economics and a Ph.D. in Economics from the American University in Washington DC.

### **Raghav Agarwal, International Horticulture Innovation and Training Centre**

Former Member of Governing Council



Mr Raghav Agarwal is a professionally qualified technocrat with over 3 decades of rich and varied experience in managing, negotiating and implementing cutting edge technologies for the public and private sector. In the last more than 6 years, undertook extensive field visits, assessed ground realities and ascertained the effectiveness of training to farmers and supported the expansion and success of 'Solar water pump program' in Rajasthan, leading to annotation in Limca Book of Records, 2014 and also being a finalist of Ashden, UK Award in 2014.

### **Rainer Agster, SEED**

Director Operations



Rainer Agster has supported SEED since 2006. He is responsible for the overall management of all SEED operations within Adelphi and provides input to the strategic development of SEED. Rainer joined Adelphi in 2002 as a Senior Project Manager and is now adelphi's Director of Private Sector Cooperation. His focus is on social and environmental entrepreneurship, energy efficiency, green finance and adaptation to climate change. Rainer has experience in the development, implementation and evaluation of sustainable development projects for national and international clients (EuropeAID, DG Energy and Transport, DG Education and Culture, UNFCCC, UNEP as well as Austrian, Chinese, German and Indian ministries, GLZ and KfW). Rainer graduated from the University of Applied Science Bremen in an International Study Programme for Environmental Engineering and has a Masters degree in Business Administration with a focus on sustainability management from the University of Leuphana in Lueneburg. He also studied one year at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia.

### **Rana Adib, REN21**

Research Coordinator



Since 2009, Rana Adib is the Research Coordinator at REN21, the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century, based in Paris. Key among her responsibilities is the annual production of REN21's highly referenced Renewables Global Status Report. Prior to REN 21 Rana worked for over 10 years in private industry and applied research in the area of renewable energy, energy access, and waste management. She was also responsible for coordinating the biogas-to-energy research programme of Veolia Environment. Rana holds a Master Degree in industrial engineering from the University of Wedel in Germany.

### **Roland Roesch, IRENA**

Senior Programme Officer



Dr. Roland Roesch is Senior Programme Officer - RE Markets and Technology Dialogue at International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). Before Roland became in October 2010 a Professor, he worked for 15 years in the Oil&Gas and Utilities Industry for Shell and E.ON in his last position as General Manager Power at Shell and for E.ON as Head of Division, Project Leader, Project Executive and Technical Project Developer. Before he joined E.ON he worked as Energy Market Consultant for Lahmeyer International and as researcher for renewable energies. Roland has solid business experience in energy markets, energy economics and energy strategies, renewable integration management, energy project development and project financing. He currently leads amongst other the IRENA Renewable Energy Project Development Guideline initiative known as IRENA Project Navigator and IRENAs work related to Renewable Energy Technology Innovation and Grids & Storage.

### **Rose Mutiso, US Department of Energy**

Senior Fellow



Dr. Rose M. Mutiso is a Senior Fellow in the Office of International Climate and Clean Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy. In this capacity, she leads DOE's engagement on a range of technology- and policy-related clean energy access issues through the Global Lighting and Energy Access Partnership (Global LEAP) initiative of the Clean Energy Ministerial, Power Africa's Beyond the Grid Initiative, the U.S.-India Promoting Energy Access through Clean Energy (PEACE) Initiative, the UN Sustainable Energy for All High Impact Opportunity on Clean Energy Mini-Grids, and other fora. Previously, she served as an Energy and Innovation Policy Fellow in the office of U.S. Senator Christopher A. Coons. Rose also has scientific experience in the fields of nanotechnology, micro- and nano- electronics, advanced plastics, and energy technology. A native of Nairobi, Kenya, Rose earned her BA and BE in Engineering Sciences with a concentration in Materials Science from Dartmouth College, and her Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania

### **Salvatore Vinci, IRENA**

Deputy Head- Policy Unit



Since Joining IRENA in 2010, Salvatore Vinci has been managing projects related to policies to promote renewable energy, with focus on developed and developing markets. He has authored several publications, the last one being 'Policies and regulations for private sector renewable energy mini-grids' (Sept 2016).

Salvatore is the Coordinator of the International Off-grid Renewable Energy Conference and Exhibition (IOREC) and has been in charge of programme development of the three editions of IOREC.

Salvatore has 14 years of experience in the energy field, having previously worked at the Department of Energy of the Italian Ministry of Economic Development. He holds a degree cum laude in Environmental Engineering and a Master's degree in Energy Resources Management.



### **Safiatou Alzouma Nouhou, IRENA**

Regional Program Officer for Sub Saharan Africa



Mrs Safiatou Alzouma Nouhou, is the Regional Programme Officer for Sub Saharan Africa at IRENA Head Quarters in Abu Dhabi. She has over 20 years of working experience in the energy field particularly in renewables. At IRENA, she coordinates the implementation of the agency's activities in Sub Saharan Africa by leading the identification of relevant issues for the region as well as relevant stakeholders to engage with for ensuring the success and significance of IRENA's intervention. This includes amongst others, the renewables readiness assessments (RRA), the Africa Clean Energy Corridor and West Africa clean Energy Corridor, post RRA advisory services and capacity building programs such as the promotion of sustainable solar PV market in West Africa, the Entrepreneurship support facility, the certification program for solar PV installers.

She holds a Master Degree in Electrical Engineering from the Moscow Institute of Energy (MEI). Before joining IRENA, she worked for the Ministry of Mines and Energy in Niger and occupied the position of National Director for Renewable Energy for five years. In that position she actively participated in all relevant debates related to energy access, sustainable development and renewable energy deployment for poverty reduction in Niger as well as in the ECOWAS region through her participation in the development and implementation of several energy initiatives.

### **Snehar Shah, Azuri East Africa**

General Manager



Mr Shah is the general manager of AZURI EAST AFRICA. Snehar brings over 20 years of expertise in investment, finance, and business development to Azuri, with a particular focus on African markets. Until recently Regional Chief Financial Officer of mobile towers business, Eaton Towers, Snehar has a strong history in the telecoms and consumer services markets, including with mobile operator Orange where he was head of the company's mobile money business unit.

### **Steven Hunt, UK Department for International Development**

Senior Energy Innovation Advisor



Steven Hunt is Senior Energy Innovation Advisor at the UK Department for International Development. Steven is Senior Technical Advisor to the Energy Africa campaign, which seeks to support household solar market acceleration in Africa. He led the development of Results-Based Financing for Low Carbon Energy Access (RBF) and is co-ordinator of DFID's Green Mini-Grids Africa initiative, amongst other policy and programme initiatives. Steven's previous experience comes from the energy, technology consulting and NGO sectors.

### **Sunkanmi Olowo, Ecobank Nigeria Limited**

Head SME / Value Chain Banking



Mr. Sunkanmi Olowo currently Heads the SME / Value chain banking of Ecobank Nigeria. He has been with Ecobank Nigeria for over about 11 years with majority of the years spent in the SME department of the bank including the headship of the unit for over 6 years. He is trained as a Professional Accountant with the Firm of C.S. Ola & Co, Chartered Accountants and has finance and banking experience of over 20 years

He also has experience in Internal Audit, Bank management, Bank Operations, branch management and Marketing and has undergone several trainings both locally and overseas in areas covering Leadership, Credit structuring, project finance, SMEs Management, Customer service, Risk Management, Bank operations etc. He started the Value chain banking business of the Bank and was responsible for the highly successful Lagos Bus rapid Transport financing, the BRT scheme where Ecobank financed the rolling stock. Mr Olowo is responsible for the Renewable energy initiatives and RE financing of Ecobank.

### **Suman Sureshbabu, Rockefeller Foundation**

Associate Director



Suman Sureshbabu currently leads key aspects of the Rockefeller Foundation's Smart Power for Rural Development initiative, focused on promoting rural economic development by accelerating the growth of the mini-grid sector. During her time at RF, Suman has supported the strategic development and execution of current and emerging Foundation initiatives focused on urbanization, resilience and African agriculture.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Suman focused on community driven development and women's microfinance initiatives, working in the Upper East Region of Ghana and also consulting with UNDP-Malawi, Environmental Defense Fund, Oxfam America, and the Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Karnataka.

### **Tom Price, All Power Labs**

Director of Strategic Initiatives



Tom Price leads international project and partnership development for All Power Labs, a pioneer in carbon negative energy design. His work with APL has led to project development and construction all over the world. In his previous position with a utility scale solar developer, he led the three-year effort pass California's groundbreaking 600MW community renewables law. Prior to that, he founded and ran the NGO Black Rock Solar, which to date has given away more than 6MW of solar over 50 projects to underserved communities. In 2008, his work with Black Rock Solar earned him recognition as one of PEOPLE Magazine's "Environmental Heroes of the Year." He spent seven years as a freelance journalist, and was the first US journalist to report on climate change from Tuvalu, and was later banned from Botswana for reporting on the conflict between Bushmen tribe and diamond industry.



### **Vivian Vendeirinho, RVE.SOL**

Founder and Managing Director



Vivian is a recognized pioneer and thought leader in sustainable rural development and passionate about driving transformational change in the world on the back of the renewable energy revolution. He founded RVE.SOL, a social enterprise with a patent-pending renewable energy solution named KUDURA. KUDURA enables bankable electricity and water mini grid projects in rural African communities. Born and raised in South Africa, Vivian's heart has always been in Africa. His background is in engineering and his work experience is in international technology business development for large companies and startups, Vivian speaks 5 languages and believes nothing is more important than family. He lives in Portugal currently with his wife Maria and three children.

### **Willem Nolens, SolarNow**

Founder and CEO



Willem, an economist, worked over 10 years in microfinance in Africa. He loved it, but also saw that microfinance was not an effective method to accelerate economic development in rural areas. In 2009 he joined the award-winning Rural Energy Foundation that he later transformed into a for-profit company, SolarNow.

SolarNow provides real electricity for the entrepreneurial class. The company offers tailor-made power solutions and a broad range of electrical appliances. Clients benefit from a 24-months customised payment facility. SolarNow has installed over 1.2MWp and has a dedicated network of 38 branches in Uganda employing 320 people.

### **Wim Jonker Klunne, Energy and Environment Partnership (EEP)**

Programme Director



Wim Jonker Klunne is the Programme Director for the Energy and Environment Partnership Programme (EEP), implemented by KPMG on behalf of the Governments of Finland, the UK and Austria. Wim has 25 years of experience in renewable energy and energy efficiency project implementation in the southern and east Africa and has worked for a wide range of stakeholders in the field a/o the World Bank, IFC, AfDB, UNEP, CSIR and others.

## **Xavier VALLVÉ**, Trama TecnoAmbiental (TTA)

International Consultant and Partner



Xavier Vallvé holds engineering and Master's degrees from the University of Waterloo in Canada and is co-founder and director of the engineering and consultancy firm TTA in Barcelona, Spain. He has more than 25 years of experience in renewable energy rural electrification and distributed generation projects, autonomous as well as grid tied, RE hybrid technology for islands and isolated villages. This involves complementary interdisciplinary activities in economic, social and management aspects as well as engineering in RE generation and storage.

In RE distributed generation and micro grids, he has been involved in feasibility studies, engineering, project management and commissioning of many PV rural micro grids in isolated villages in Africa, Asia and South America. He is also an active member in international codes and standards committees on this subject. He has been project director or lead consultant for private and government clients and also for projects by UNDP, UNOPS, UNIDO, UNEP, AECID, IDB, WB, EC, IRENA and other agencies. He is director and lecturer of the Master degree "Master en Ingeniería y Gestión de las Energías Renovables" at IL3 (University of Barcelona).





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