

YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS PROGRAMME

Fellows in the academic year
2022 - 2023





Thomas Kankam ADJEI

Nationality: Ghana

Areas of expertise: Energy and Climate; Public Policy

Thomas Kankam Adjei is a climate and energy policy analyst with relevant skills and interdisciplinary experience in research and development in the areas of Energy, Climate Change, Private sector development and Public-Private Partnerships, having engaged with highest levels of government and duty bearers across different sectors in Ghana and abroad.

Over the last seven years he has served on several technical committees and projects including voluntary activities relating to agriculture, trade, climate change and energy. He has the experience of working for both private sector and public sector institutions including collaborations with international development organizations.

He is currently a National Project Coordinator (NPC) at the Environmental Protection Agency of Ghana, focused on the implementation of Ghana's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) under the Paris Climate Agreement in two priority sectors of climate smart agriculture and e-mobility.

Thomas has also published in academic journals and written open editorials in newspapers in Ghana and abroad respectively, covering topics on climate change, resilience building post-covid, the sustainable development goals and public-private partnerships since 2019. Thomas is an alumnus of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), where he earned his undergraduate and post graduate degrees in climate science and sustainable energy management respectively in 2014 and 2018. He is also a professional member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA-UK) including the Steering Committee for West Africa and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA-UK) in the last 3 years.



Jane ANIKA

Nationality: Kenya

Areas of expertise: Gender governance; Gender equality; Political participation

Anika is the Head of Advocacy for AMPLIFY Girls where she champions the uptake of girls' agency as a critical measure towards girls' success. Anika has represented AMPLIFY in the UNGEI Feminist Education Coalition whose aim was to use the power of collective action to make a unified impact alongside and for the Transforming Education Summit (TES). Anika also represents AMPLIFY in the Adolescent Girls Investment Group whose main goal is to ensure girls' inclusion and resourcing in multi-lateral spaces. In addition, Anika serves on the Women Deliver Advisory Committee for the Women Deliver 2023 Conference championing accountability for adolescent girls in global conversations. She also serves as the co-chair of the Charter for Change Kenya Research and Advocacy Working Group.

Named among Africa's 100 top influential youth 2021, Anika delivered keynote addresses at the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2021 and the World Bank Live – State of the Region- Africa; advocating for holistic access to girls' education. Having served as a Core Group Representative in the Generation Equality forum and being part of the Generation Equality Youth Task Force, Anika championed the inclusion of youth and adolescent voices into the highest levels of decision making in GEF.

Her continued activism led to her recent appointment to the UN Women Global Advisory Committee to advise on UNW's strategic direction. She is also part of Kenya's AWLN (African Women Leadership Network) technical committee. Lastly, was a ONE East Africa Champion lobbying decision-makers to create changes for gender equality. Anika holds a Master's in Women, Leadership & Governance in Africa from the University of Nairobi.



Bouchra BELHAJ ABDALLAH

Nationality: Tunisia

Areas of expertise: Environment; Climate change governance; Sustainability

Bouchra Belhaj Abdallah obtained her Ph.D. in Biology with a special focus in environmental pollution from the university of Carthage (Tunisia) in 2018. She was awarded E.U support via PASRI (Project to Support the Research and Innovation System) and its flagship initiative MobiDoc, dedicated to mobilize research within industrial companies. In co-supervision with Simon Fraser University (Canada), she was pioneer in assessing nanomaterials at the realistic conditions of natural media and their implication in the food chain and feeding the environmental field with cutting-edge research.

She pursued her postdoctoral studies in Canada at same University where she successfully brought to the table companies from across Canada to bridge industries and academia stakeholders for strong collaborations that resulted for example, in receiving an NSERC grant and suggesting natural based solutions for polluted sites upon field assessment. She also authored and published research papers in the top journals for environmental science and chemistry. In 2021, she joined Future Islands team as the environmental expert of the company where she led the mission of implementing the first cleantech cluster in Tunisia to contribute the country's efforts for a greener economy transition.

She successfully collaborated among stakeholders and policy makers from Tunisia and abroad. As a result-oriented leader, Bouchra succeeded to be an inspiration for women. In fact, within the framework of climate change mitigation actions, she led an initiative for beekeeping to adhere to UN efforts to help increase the populations of bees in the neighbourhood, pollinate vegetables and trees and contribute to limit the biodiversity loss. Bouchra has also been engaged in applying her expertise and valuable knowledge to deliver building capacity sessions about sustainability and SDGs among associations and civil society and contribute to the negotiation of the Tunisian blue economy strategy that is led by the world bank.



Bwalya CHISANGA

Nationality: Zambia

Areas of expertise: Human rights; Social justice; Democracy; Public health; Development; Climate change governance

Bwalya Chisanga is a legal practitioner holding an LLM in Human Rights and Democratisation (University of Pretoria, 2021) and an LLB (University of Zambia, 2017). Her interests include human rights, social justice, democracy, public health, development and climate change governance.

Bwalya is currently a Global Leader for Disarmament under the United Nations' Office for Disarmament, developing action-oriented ideas to advance collective peace and security for presentation to the United Nations Headquarters. She has previously served as Consultant at the Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa under the African Children Charter Project (ACCP) of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Bwalya has also worked as Program Consultant on the USAID-funded Open Doors Project at Family Health International 360 Zambia and a Researcher at the Law Association of Zambia. She serves as Board member (Legal) at the Media Network on Children's Rights and Development, a leading nongovernmental organisation focused on children's rights and development. Prior this, she worked as Legal Officer at one of Zambia's leading law firms.

An enthusiast of volunteer and community work, Bwalya is a member of the Young African Leaders Initiative, USAID Youth Leaders alumni, Junior Lawyers Committee of LAZ and the Human Rights Defenders Network Zambia. At both the World Youth Forum (Egypt) and the World Water Forum (Senegal), Bwalya has been Africa's youth representative in key discussions on global issues. Bwalya is currently working as a researcher at the African Union's Secretariat for the Economic, Social and Cultural Council, and a lecturer in the University of Zambia-School of Law.



Benard CHITUNGA

Nationality: Kenya

Areas of expertise: Trade and Sustainable development; Gender equality

Benard, a Career Diplomat and an International Development Scientist, is a Senior Officer for Partnerships, Donor Relations and Special Projects at the African Development Bank Group (AfDB).

Benard leads partnerships on the USD 750 Risk share mechanism implemented by the Africa Guarantee Fund, is a Task Lead/Secretariat of the USD 100 Million Gender Equality Trust Fund and Task Lead/Secretariat for the USD 61.8 Women Entrepreneurs Finance funds of the Bank. These are largest mobilized resources and efforts on the continent in unlocking private sector financing up to USD 5 Billion in five years (2020 to 2026) to women-led and owned small enterprises in Africa.

Before joining AfDB, Benard was at Olivado Group (World's largest producer of extra virgin cold pressed Avocado oil with its brand across 35 countries in Africa, America, Asia, and Europe) heading its Africa Business (Olivado Fresh, Olivado EPZ, Olivado Tanzania, Olivado Africa Biogas) as Africa Chief Operating Officer. Apart from offering leadership to the business and the 1100 staff, Benard was involved in strengthening its supply chain/Out grower scheme, expansion of the East Africa business portfolio to have fresh fruit, Biogas plant and fertilizer manufacturing lines in Kenya and Tanzania.

Benard holds Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Sustainable Development from Selinus University, MBA in Global Management from UGSM Monarch Business School, Switzerland, Masters of Global Business and Sustainability - Social Entrepreneurship from Universita Cattolica Del Sacro-Italy and Post-graduate in Development Strategy and Governance from Bradford University- United Kingdom.



Aynalem DADA TADESSE

Nationality: Ethiopia

Areas of expertise: Politics and Society; Environment; Growth and Development; Sustainability Strategy; Sustainable Development Goals; Rural, Agricultural and Environmental History; Poverty; Citizen participation; Civil Society

Currently, Aynalem is a politician, an executive committee member of the Ethiopian Social Democratic Party. As a trained Agriculturalist, he had been a rural development advisor in Ethiopia since 2004 with NGOs and the public sector. He was a fellow of the Civil Societies Leadership Award (CSLA), of the Open Society Foundation (OSF).

Aynalem has an MA degree in Sustainable Development Practice from TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi - India (2016-2018). Up on completion of the course work, he competed for a solicited call for an internship, jointly by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the UN - Global MPD to a field research in southern Ethiopia (January – April 2018). Winning the competition, he conducted the research entitled: 'Financing Smallholder farmers engaged in Small-scale Irrigation through Financial Institutions.'

Aynalem is a specialist in financial inclusion and strategizing Sustainable Rural Livelihoods Frameworks (Human, Natural, Social, Financial, and Physical capitals) to boost the economics and agency of smallholder farmers. Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture, Rural Financial Remediation, Agricultural Value Chains, Political debates, Federalism, Gender/disability mainstreaming, and Environmental Stewardship, Women empowering are among core areas of his expert engagement.

His research interest is around: good governance, Federalism, Constitutionalism, Rural financial inclusion, Policy environment, Diplomacy, Sustainability, Community resilience, Rule-based multilateralism, Electoral democracy, Self-rule and Shared-rule, Future making.



Jocelyne Landry DOUANDJU TSONANG

Nationality: Cameroon

Areas of expertise: Energy and climate; Gender Equality; Renewable energy; Policy analysis; Sustainable banking and finance

Jocelyne Landry Tsonang is a Cameroonian natural resource and environmental management expert with a focus on circular economy. She holds a Master's Degree in Forestry Science from the University of Yaoundé I in Cameroon. She is a consultant with over eight years of experience. She seats on the executive team of the African Circular Economy Network (ACEN) and is the Regional Coordinator in charge of francophone countries at the African Circular Economy Network Foundation (ACENF).

Jocelyne is the co-founder of D&D Smart Construction a company focused on eco-friendly buildings and renewable energy. Driven by her Pan-African mindset, she founded an association of young female leaders called Maluwa Africa which is incorporated in Nigeria and currently has some 100 members in 20 African countries. I have also served as Country ambassador and the Regional Ambassador for Central Africa at the Women Entrepreneurship Day Organization from 2016 to 2021. She is a fellow of the African Women Entrepreneurship Cooperative by the Global Enterprise. She is also a fellow of the US Department of State Techwomen programme.

Jocelyne is interested in international climate governance, circular economy, gender inclusion, green technologies, natural resources management, and climate finance. She has the ambition to keep growing her expertise in these fields and to influence policy formulation at National, Regional and Global levels. She believes the private sector and the public sector both have a great role to play in achieving climate goals.

She has the ambition to serve as an advisor to development banks and financial institutions on how they can contribute to curbing climate change while driving sustainable projects, building resilient businesses, creating jobs, and closing the already huge gender gap in Africa.



Esther Aba ESHUN

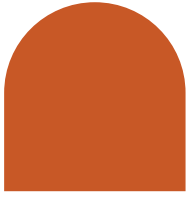
Nationality: Ghana

Areas of expertise: Agribusiness; Social Inclusion

Aba is experienced in Agribusiness and Social Inclusion. Over more than a decade, she has developed a career in food security, livelihood support, and diversification and entrepreneurship activities. Her work has impacted over 5,000 entrepreneurs especially youth, provided investment support, mentorship, facilitated market linkages and business networking for entrepreneurs. All these services through incubating women and youth agribusinesses and further developed public-private partnerships.

Aba has actively participated, interacted and networked with Business leaders and senior policy advisors during high-level events such as the Paris Peace Forum' 19, France and the World Export Development Forum'19, Ethiopia. The rest includes 6th Europe—Africa Business Forum, Belgium in the margins of the Africa Europe Heads of State Summit, 2022 and the more recent 15th European Development Days (EDD'22) as a session organizer and moderator.

Aba is currently a doctoral student of University of Ghana, Legon, with a Bachelor in Agriculture (Agribusiness) and a Master of Philosophy in Agricultural Administration from the same University. She currently volunteers as a young expert of the AU – EU Youth Cooperation Hub, occasional mentor and coaching expert for youth volunteers of Compassion in Ghana / Kasoa Youth and Child Development Center. *“My interest has been advocating in highlighting the need for more opportunities for the youth, women and persons with disabilities in the agribusiness space at all levels”.*



Mohammed FOBOTI

Nationality: Liberia

Areas of expertise: Public Policy; International relations; Governance, Democracy, Politics, International Development; Peacebuilding, Peace and Security, Youth and Gender Mainstreaming

Mohammed Foboi is a Liberian public policy practitioner and researcher, specialized in international affairs, international development, peace and security, youth and gender mainstreaming, inclusive governance, decentralization and social impact.

Mohammed is a 2021 graduate of the School of Global and Public Affairs at IE University in Madrid, Spain, with a Master of Science in International Relations. He is an IE Foundation Fellow and a Kistefos Young Talented Leaders Scholar. He is a One Young World Ambassador, serving as a delegate speaker on the conflict resolution panel at the 2021 One Young World Summit in Munich, Germany.

Mohammed has participated in and addressed major international forums at the United Nations in New York, African Union in Addis, Wilton Park in London, United Network of Young Peacebuilders in Amsterdam, Lagos, and Bogota, among others. He is the current head of International Affairs at the Monrovia City Government. He is former regional coordinator for West and Central Africa of UNOY Peacebuilders, based in the Hague. In this role, he coordinated 31 youth-led peacebuilding organizations across 13 countries, mobilizing resources for their work and giving them visibility among regional economic communities and multilateral organizations. He has authored and co-authored six books and contributed to many international reports in the areas of peacebuilding, childcare and discrimination, community service and sanitation, education, social studies, human rights and supplementary readers for Liberian schools.

He is a catalyst of the European Project and his goal is to strengthen governance and improve service delivery in the poorest regions of the world.



Immanuel FREEMAN

Nationality: Liberia

Areas of expertise: Engineering; Education; Climate Change

Immanuel is a project engineer at Liberia's Ministry of Public Works. He was recruited to Liberia's civil service in 2018 through a highly competitive fellowship known as the President's Young Professional Program. He is also a 2022 Mandela Washington Fellow and alumni from the University of California Davis in the United States of America.

With more than seven years of professional experience, Immanuel has worked on public infrastructure ranging from roads and bridges to sanitary latrines and water supply systems. He holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Liberia and a master's degree in water supply engineering from IHE Delft Institute for Water Education in the Netherlands. His work is focus on public service delivery with emphasis on engineering infrastructure. He is passionate about road connectivity and water supply systems.

Immanuel also combines his passion for engineering and education. Thus, he is a lecturer in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Liberia, a role that allows him to prepare the next generation of Liberian engineers. In addition, he mentors women in engineering through volunteer work with the Liberia Society of Women Engineers.



Mohamed Ibrahim HAFEZ

Nationality: Egypt

Areas of expertise: Economic development; Public Policy

Mohamed Hafez is a Senior Economic Policy Analyst at the Egyptian General Investment for Investment and Free Zones, where he is responsible for preparing and presenting policy notes and advice, on MENA macro-development issues, economy, and potential investment projects. Prior to this, he was an SMEs Credit Analyst in one of the leading commercial banks in MENA region for five years.

Mohamed received the prestigious Chevening award and studied MSc in Political Economy of Development at SOAS, University of London. He also had intensive training in the public policy field through his participation in the Presidential Leadership Program (PLP). He founded the PLP “Finance and Economics” Club, a governmental workshop that produced a number of research papers to develop the Egyptian society and economy, and presented the findings to senior government officials through national youth conferences. In 2017, He was nominated as the official spokesman of the first World Youth Forum edition.

Mohamed is also a part of “Rowad 2030 Project”, a national entrepreneurship initiative that aims to create a scientific community capable of adopting and supporting entrepreneurial thinking. He has a growing interest in the development field, including Public Policy and FDI strategies, institutional reforms and economic development, nation-building and economic policy. He received a distinction in his dissertation entitled “How have state intervention policies affected the manufacturing sector in Africa? A Political Economy Approach - Case of Rwanda”.



Nnamdi IFECHI-FRED

Nationality: Nigeria

Areas of expertise: Development aid; Growth and Development; Digital transformation; Technological change and society

Nnamdi Ifechi-Fred is an economic development and technology policy analyst with over seven years of experience supporting critical transformation programmes in Nigeria. His research and professional expertise include economic growth and livelihoods, international development assistance, digital innovation & transformation, and public policy analysis. He has dual degrees in Economics, with a Bachelor's Degree (Covenant University, Nigeria) and a Master of Economics in China Studies from Peking University in China, which he undertook under the prestigious Yenching Scholarship between 2019 and 2021.

Nnamdi gained extensive experience working as a public sector consultant at one of the big four accounting firms – PwC. As a senior innovation associate at Stears, He is currently researching digital innovation trends across Africa and helping individuals and organisations gain deeper insights into this. He also focuses on identifying the pathways through which digital innovation can drive economic change and growth at micro and macro levels.

Nnamdi is interested in understanding the various applications of emerging technologies – such as blockchain – in solving critical developmental challenges facing African societies and their economies and how public policy can facilitate progress and mitigate risks in this respect. He also leads the Young Professionals in Policy and Development (YouPaD), which is working to include young Nigerians in domestic public policy development processes.



Ismael KIMSO

Nationality: Niger

Areas of expertise: Statistical and econometric methods; Economic development; Applied econometrics; Quantitative methods

Ismael Kimso is an economist with a multicultural background, specializing in statistical and econometric methods and economic development. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and a Master's in Econometrics from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He has an interest in conflict dynamics on the African continent and has worked on the relationship between political/social instability and macroeconomic indicators and trends in Africa. He is also a Fulbright alumni.

He is currently working as a Statistician Specialist at the National Institute of Statistics in Niger, with a specialized focus on development issues, and provides technical assistance and training to national ministries on data analytics. Ismael has worked and lived in many African countries and regions.

Ismael has experience working with the Governance Department of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Niger, within the Electoral Project's Unit, and he served as a Junior Fellow at UNICEF in Bujumbura, Burundi.



Zanele MABASO

Nationality: South Africa

Areas of expertise: Human rights; Social justice; Governance; Transitional justice; Gender equality; Public health

Zanele holds an MPhil in HIV/AIDS Management from the University of Stellenbosch, Masters in Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Africa at the University of Pretoria (Centre for Human Rights), and completing the final semester towards her third Masters in Development Policy and Practice at the University of Cape Town (Nelson School of Governance).

Zanele is the Head of Policy Development for a development agency based in South Africa. Prior to this, she served as a Senior Public Policy and Advocacy Officer at PATH responsible for leading and implementing regional and country level policy work supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). Her expertise entails a focus on health and wellbeing, public policy, human rights and gender governance in the SADC & EAC region. She has travelled to over 38 countries worldwide, with 20 being in Africa on development missions within her 8 years of experience working with civil society organisations, national government and multilateral organisations, particularly the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Health Organisation (WHO); in providing high-level technical assistance to WHO country partners in Nigeria, Malawi, Cameroon, India and Kenya.

Zanele is experienced in not only providing high-level technical advisory and public policy intel at national level, but she's also actively involved in the strategic influencing of regional policies, frameworks and global public policy agendas and strategies - most particularly addressing the human rights violations, protections and public health needs of vulnerable groups and key populations.



Silindile MLILO

Nationality: Botswana

Areas of expertise: Analyses and commentary on migration and citizenship; Identity; Discrimination and marginalisation; Xenophobia and attitudes toward outgroups

Silindile Nanzile Mlilo is a Project Manager and Doctoral Researcher at the African Centre for Migration & Society (ACMS), University of Witwatersrand in South Africa. Silindile has over 8 years of experience in extensive research and project management in both academia and the NGO sector.

Silindile has earned a Bachelor of Social Work, and an MA in Human Rights from the University of Fort Hare in South Africa, respectively. She followed this by completing a two-year mobility Erasmus Mundus MA in Advanced Development in Social Work, from the University of Lincoln (England), Aalborg University (Denmark), Instituto Superior de Ciencias Sociais e Políticas-Universidade De Lisboa (Portugal) and Université Paris Ouest Nanterre La Defense (France).

Silindile's current Ph.D. research project titled: *Political subjectivities in post-colonial communities: Identity and belonging among Botswana's non-Tswana migrant descendant* focuses on themes such as citizenship, belonging and identity for migrant descendants in Africa.



Asma MOHAMED AHMED

Nationality: Djibouti

Areas of expertise: Politics and Society; Values and social issues; Conflict and peace; International security

Asma is an international relations professional. She is passionate about socio-cultural anthropology, diplomacy and security. Her main areas of interest include political socialisation, identity politics, international security, conflict and peace.

Asma's research revolves around how political behaviour, social, political and ethnic identities, and colonial heritage are linked and influence peace and conflict in multi-ethnic societies. She has extensive professional experience in the United States, the United Kingdom and Djibouti in several sectors, for instance, government administration, academia, student affairs and peer mentoring.

Asma currently works at the Djibouti Chamber of Commerce, a national public institution that serves the business community in Djibouti and the region; she is in charge of International Relations.

Asma is an alumna of the prestigious Chevening Scholarship and a One Young World ambassador. She holds a bachelor's degree in International Studies from the University of South Florida and a Master's in International Studies and Diplomacy from SOAS, University of London. She enjoys travelling and interacting with people from different cultural backgrounds and considers herself a nomad and an adventurer.



Moses MPUNGU

Nationality: Uganda

Areas of expertise: Global Economics: Trade, Investment, Development; Global governance; Public Administration; Peace, negotiations and Peace Building

Moses Mpungu has been working as a Foreign Service Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda since 2011. His work focuses on Uganda's relations with regional and international countries as well as multilateral organizations. Moses currently serves as a Desk Officer in charge of economic relations between Uganda and other regional countries in Northern and Eastern Africa. Moses holds a Master of Science Degree in International Development and Humanitarian Emergencies (IDHE) from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). He obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Development Economics from Makerere University Kampala. His Master's dissertation focused on how regional peace keeping in West Africa is affected by the manner in which Member States get involved. Moses has just completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Public Administration and Management from the Uganda Management Institute (UMI).

Moses also holds several Certificates in Diplomacy and International Relations from Diplomatic Academies in Cairo (Egypt) and Tehran (Iran). He previously worked at the Uganda High Commission in London where he served in several capacities, first as Accounting Officer from 2015- 2017 and Political Affairs Officer from 2017- 2019.

During his tour of duty in London, Moses facilitated bilateral relations between Uganda and the United Kingdom as well as facilitating Uganda's participation in international conferences in London such as the Somalia Conference in 2017, the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference in 2018 and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in 2018. He possesses great interest in African Integration and peaceful resolution of conflicts as a way of ensuring stability, economic growth and poverty eradication.



Theana MSOLOMBA

Nationality: Malawi

Areas of expertise: Poverty; Personal Finance & Micro Finance; Social justice; Global, Imperial and Colonial History

Theana is a Financial Educator who has over 8 years' experience in development finance sector in Malawi, Africa. She is currently working as Business Development Manager for CIC group-Malawi. Theana is also the Lead Consultant on the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Skill Up project. From 2018 - June 2022, she served as Regional Savings Manager - Foundation for International community assistance FINCA and (2011-2013) Business Development Officer for Malawi Union of Savings and Credit Cooperatives overseeing 13 financial cooperatives. In 2021, she launched a financial education platform "Financial wellness with Kuwala" which has become the largest financial education platform in Malawi training over 8000 people. The platform was recognised by Plan International - Malawi for Best financial education campaign.

Theana works with several communities to build financial resilience, address poverty, increase financial inclusion and promote economic stability. Her interest includes multidimensional poverty, financial inclusion, wellbeing, global politics, social and economic history and championing skills development as a fundamental enabler of economic growth and private sector development.

Theana possesses an MA in Cooperation and Development, University of Pavia, Italy 2015 & Bachelors Education - Economic and Political History 2009, University of Malawi.



Veridique Kakule MUSAMBAGHANI

Nationality: Democratic Republic of Congo

Areas of expertise: Environment; Education

Veridique Musambaghani is a social entrepreneur whose work covers areas related to education and research with an overall goal to promote proper environmental protection practices in the Congo-Bassin. Veridique holds an MBA in Finance and Accounting (St Lawrence University Uganda, 2018).

In his career, Veridique has been active both in organization creation and policy formulation and implementation. Founder of Kwafrika Travel Ltd, a business spearheading ecotourism in Dr Congo, Kwafrika Travel aims to leverage tourism receipts to promote conservation of protected areas of the Congo. His recent initiative is Groupe Utalii Kwetu, a non-profit gathering hundreds of researchers in the Congo-Bassin working to revive tourism and support environmental protection efforts through policy proposals and implementation.

His research interests include effective policies to boost ecotourism in Central Africa, the role of education in nature conservation and the role of Africa in combating climate change. As a YALP fellow, Veridique intends to start new research leading to a policy brief on ecotourism as a tool for biodiversity conservation in DR Congo, Cameroon and Gabon.

The research will focus on the interaction between tourism and conservation in national parks providing evidence to policy makers on how conservation and tourism can be intertwined for proper biodiversity management, using ecotourism as an engine for a sustainable and inclusive development in Central Africa.



Vanessa MUTUNGA

Nationality: Kenya

Areas of expertise: Macroeconomics and finance; Trade and sustainable development; Digital transformation; Taxation and fiscal policy; Global governance, Conflict and peace.

Vanessa is a policy analyst with a special interest in policy evaluations, policy responsiveness and feedback effects. She holds an M.A awarded by the Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies from The University of Nairobi. Her areas of interest include macroeconomic policy, trade and sustainable development, digital transformations, taxation and fiscal policy, global governance, conflict and peace.

Her current policy research interest is the nexus between sustainable climate change governance and sustainable finance. As a fellow, she seeks to examine the interface between carbon pricing mechanisms and carbon taxes in conjunction with other global warming solutions as efficient policy tools in driving down emissions responsible for climate change.

She intends to investigate the implementation of Emissions Trading Systems, carbon taxes or a hybrid of the two in mitigating effects of climate change to deliver on African countries' Climate Action Plans. Her research aims to explore how best African countries and in particular, Kenya can maximise the benefits of a Carbon Trading Mechanism through its governance either nationally or as a regional block.

Vanessa has a multidisciplinary work experience spanning across public and private sectors in policy research, financial analysis, project management, taxation, transitional justice, institutional reforms, human rights and investigations. She currently works at the Kenya Revenue Authority where is has been engaged in Joint Multi – Agency Technical Working Groups on emerging issues such as Taxation of Kenya's Digitalized Economy and Energy Sector Reforms.



Babatunde OSHO

Nationality: Nigeria

Areas of expertise: Climate Change Governance; Sustainability

Babatunde Osho is a climate scientist with interests in participatory climate change policy, sustainability, net-zero and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG). He holds a Master of Science in Climate Change Science and Policy from the University of Bristol, UK. Babatunde specializes in scientific research, communication, project management and policy advocacy.

He is a leadership team member at Earthplus, a pro-environment non-profit in Nigeria where he works at the intersection of climate policy and media. He is a self-starter and an excellent team-player with firm belief in integrity, responsibility and mutual respect as drivers of positive change.

Babatunde is a 2020 recipient of the Commonwealth Scholarship and a semi-finalist of the 2021 Her Majesty Government (HMG) Climate Change Policy Hackathon having led his team to develop policy solutions aimed at increasing climate change awareness in sub-Saharan Africa under the collaboration goal of the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26).



Mawa Moses Alafi SATURLINO

Nationality: South Sudan

Areas of expertise: Conflict and peace; Transitional justice; Public policy; Peace negotiations, peacebuilding, peacemaking

Mawa Moses Alafi Saturlino works for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) department of Civil Affairs Division. He is a facilitator for Local Conflict Analysis Planning Tools and at the same time a Community Liaison Officer.

His area of expertise includes conflict and peace; transitional justice; public policy and peace negotiations; peacebuilding; and peacemaking, with an emphasis on conflict management and a community-based participatory approach to establishing multi-stakeholder rapprochement.

As a local conflict analyst, Mawa possesses a master's degree in Conflictology from Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain, where he researched the role of peace infrastructure in mitigating inter-communal violence in South Sudan.

Mawa has worked with International Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for over nine years and is currently with the UN-Mission in South Sudan. He has extensive experience working in emergencies and complex conflict settings.



Stephanie Oserwa SCHANDORF

Nationality: Ghana

Areas of expertise: Transnational Governance; Climate Change Governance; International Relations

Stephanie is a passionate ocean advocate and research consultant in the field of transnational ocean governance and maritime security. She has an MSc in Defence and International Politics from the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College, with research interest in matters pertaining to the ocean-climate nexus, as well as the transnational implications of maritime security threat paths.

Over the course of her seven-year career, she has contributed expertise to a large number of ocean governance conferences and fora, including the First Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Abidjan Convention to Study Aspects of the Conservation of the ABNJ in Cape Town, South Africa and the UN Economic and Social Council Youth Forum Thematic Session on SDG 14 (Life Below Water).

Stephanie also served as a panellist in the Ad-Hoc Experts Group for the Contribution and Finalisation of Draft Annexes to the Lomé Charter and as a co-author of Ghana's Maritime Legal and Institutional Review, prepared under the US-Ghana Security Governance Initiative.

Stephanie is the Associate Director of the Gulf of Guinea Maritime Institute and the founder of Sustainability Tribe, a non-profit, social media movement aimed at enhancing ocean literacy amongst youth. Through her advocacy efforts, Stephanie hopes to motivate masses of African youth to take an active stand for the ocean and for a more sustainable future.



Keamou Marcel SOROPOGUI

Nationality: Guinea

Areas of expertise: Environment; Sustainability; Urban transport; Climate change governance

Keamou Marcel Soropogui is an environmental and sustainable development specialist. He holds a bachelor's degree in biology with a concentration in ecology and ecosystems from the University of Kindia (Guinea) and a double master's degree in sustainable urban development from the Technical University of Darmstadt (Germany) and the Vietnamese German University (Vietnam).

He has collaborated with various consulting firms working in the areas of Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs). For the past seven years, he has overseen several ESIAs and developed environmental and social management plans for major development projects such as mining, hydroelectric power plants, power transmission lines, and transportation projects in the Republic of Guinea.

He currently works as a director and senior consultant for an environmental consulting firm in Guinea. He also collaborates with local and international NGOs in the implementation of diverse projects on climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation, the sustainable management of protected areas, and the livelihood improvement of local communities.

As a young African leader at the School of Transnational Governance, Keamou Marcel is seeking to investigate possible solutions to issues that have hindered policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation and, in particular, those associated with the sustainable management of land, forest, and water resources in the Republic of Guinea.



Teniola TAYO

Nationality: Nigeria

Areas of expertise: Inequality; Transnational governance; Global economics: trade, investment and development; Industrial policy.

Teniola T. Tayo is a Policy Advisor with a focus on trade, security and development issues in Nigeria and Africa. Her research interests cover trade policy, industrial policy, investment promotion, inequality, and stabilisation. Practically speaking, she works on regional integration issues in Africa as well as conflict situations such as the Boko Haram crisis.

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