



ACCELERATING ENERGY TRANSITION

FOOD SYSTEMS TRACK: APRIL EDITION INVESTMENT AND PARTNERSHIP NEEDS

7 April 2021 | 14:00-15:30 CET



Magdalena Kouneva,
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
Partnership

Magdalena specialises in development finance and possesses a strong familiarity with the international architecture for sustainable development. She has significant experience designing and implementing a wide range of financing products and innovative financial instruments.

Between 2009-2018 Magdalena was the UNDP's advisor for development finance in the finance and planning ministries in Rwanda, Malawi and Papua New Guinea. In this position, she designed and managed UNDP's support and strengthened capacities and systems for financing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2019-2020 Magdalena supported the European Commission in introducing a new generation of EU guarantees for private sector operations in Africa and EU-neighbouring countries under the European Fund for Sustainable Development, implemented in partnership with European and international multilateral banks and development finance institutions.



Allison Archambault,
EarthSpark International

Allison Archambault is president of EarthSpark International, an organization that is driving systems change for deep climate justice in rural Haiti. Partnering with towns that do not have electricity, EarthSpark builds solar-powered electricity grids that energize homes and power local industry. EarthSpark's community-based "Feminist Electrification" won the United Nations' UNFCCC "Momentum for Change" award in 2018 for its integrated approach of combining gender, climate, and local resilience in infrastructure development. The Green Climate Fund has committed \$10M towards EarthSpark's \$45M project finance deal that will energize 22 additional towns with 100% solar+storage in the next 4 years. Allison co-founded and now serves on the board of SparkMeter, a leading provider of smart meters and grid management tools, which is now serving grid operators in 25 countries. Prior to her time with EarthSpark, Allison consulted to clean energy companies, governments, and advocacy groups. She previously worked with 3TIER on large-scale renewable energy siting and integration and with GridPoint in the early days of combining distributed energy storage, solar PV, and energy management. Ms. Archambault is a National Geographic Explorer and the winner of the 2017 Department of Energy, MIT + Stanford Clean Energy Education and Empowerment (C3E) Award. She earned a B.A. (hons) from Tufts University and a Master of International Public Policy degree from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.



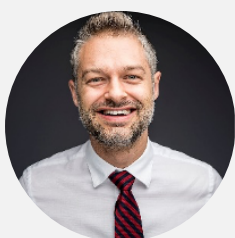
Juliette Besnard,
World Bank/ESMAP

Juliette Besnard is Energy Specialist at the World Bank/ESMAP. As part of the Electricity Access team, she is co-leading the Improving Livelihoods and Human Capital initiative and more especially activities related to productive uses of electricity. She has been working in the energy sector for the last 10 years, mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa.



Albert Bokkestijn,
SNV Netherlands Development Organisation

With 30 years of working experience in the development sector, I have engaged in different capacities in projects focused on Sustainable Forest Management, Agriculture, Renewable Energy and Climate action in Latin America (Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia) and Africa (Uganda and Cameroon). As of September 2019, I am working with SNV Netherlands Development Organisation as a Programme Manager for the Dutch Fund for Climate and Development responsible for the graduating innovative ideas into bankable business investment projects that target climate resilience at scale in developing countries. From 2015 to August 2019, I worked as regional Director of the Andean Forests Program with HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation in Peru. I hold a MSc degree from the Wageningen Agriculture University in the Netherlands.



Aaron Leopold,
EnerGrow

Aaron is the CEO of EnerGrow, the only company in Africa dedicated to being the lead growth / productive use partner of minigrid and on-grid energy companies across Africa. EnerGrow provides asset financing and training to customers of energy companies so that they can increase their incomes using energy. Communities win. Utilities win. EnerGrow Wins. Before coming to EnerGrow, Aaron was the founding CEO of the Africa Minigrid Developers Association (AMDA), representing the decentralized utility sector's desire to be a partner in progress at the national and global level. AMDA publishes the largest dataset on minigrid costs, performance and trends and analysis in the world. At AMDA, Aaron worked with members, donors, governments, other financiers and of course minigrid companies to help the sector rapidly scale-up. Before AMDA, Aaron served as Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Rural Electrification, was a member of the Private Sector Advisory Group of the Green Climate Fund, and for nearly five years was Practical Action's Global Energy Representative, where he acted as thought leader on energy access, and co-authored their flagship Poor People's Energy Outlook report. Aaron was also a co-founder and Deputy Director of Power for All.



Demetrio Innocenti,
Green Climate Fund

Demetrio Innocenti joined the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in 2014 and he is currently serving as the Manager of the Simplified Approval Process (SAP), the Project Preparation Facility (PPF) and the Enhancing Direct Access (EDA) pilot programme. Previously to the GCF, Demetrio served with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), where he managed several climate change projects and programmes (2008-2014). From 2002 to 2008 Demetrio served in East Africa, within a World Bank's executed programme, and in several South East Asian countries (Laos, Philippines and Vietnam) with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), private consulting firms, and non-governmental organizations.



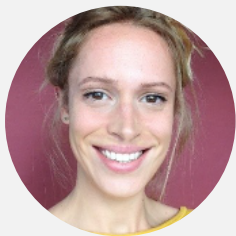
Florent Eveillé,
GIZ

Florent is an adviser for the Energizing Development (EnDev) programme implemented by GIZ and RVO on Productive Use of Energy (PUE) and Humanitarian Energy. Before holding this position, Florent works for more than four years in FAO, first as Programme support expert on efficient water use in West Bank & Gaza Strip and then as Professional Officer on humanitarian energy and renewable energy in agri-food chain at FAO HQ in Rome. Florent has project management and public policy experience in the field of food security, nature conservation, renewable energy and waste management in Central African Republic, France, Jordan, Lebanon and at EU level. His university background is in Economics and Integrated Water Management. He is currently the key account manager for PUE and Humanitarian Energy and the EnDev backstopper for Tanzania and Uganda.



Francis Elisha,
Rocky Mountain Institute

Francis Elisha is a Director on the Africa Program at the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI). He leads RMI's engagement in sub-Saharan Africa and specializes on Decentralized Energy Resources (DERs) and productive uses of electricity, with a focus on the agriculture -energy nexus. Francis brings over 12 years of experience in project management and inclusive stakeholder facilitation, working on energy access challenges, financial sustainability issues and policy solutions to accelerate the transition to clean energy economy. Prior to RMI, Francis worked for the Tony Blair Institute as West Africa Regional Advisor under the Power Africa initiative, supporting governments to implement power sector reforms and energy access programs. In 2015, he contributed to the negotiations for the energy transition law in France on behalf of the French wind energy association, helping to secure ambitious renewable energy targets. Francis holds an MSc in Physics and Power Engineering from Supélec and Université Paris Sud XI.



Camille Andre-Bataille,
ANKA Madagascar

Camille ANDRE-BATAILLE is a French entrepreneur, based in Madagascar for 8 years, who has co-founded an impact and innovation-driven company named ANKA, which is mainly active in Madagascar but penetrating several mainland SSA countries. ANKA focuses on the development, construction and operation of electricity access solutions powered by solar energy. In rural areas, ANKA has designed innovative minigrid models that link energy and water, electric cooking, mobility and agriculture. Particularly, ANKA created the AgriGrid© model which consolidates existing solar and IT technologies in an experimental ag-energy nexus business model that illustrates the “mini-grid 3.0” approach. AgriGrid is meant to span the enhancement of yields, creation of new food and ag products through value-addition, creation and facilitation of market linkages, and optimization of processing, storage, packaging, logistics, and sales. ANKA is also an EPC contractor, an energy efficiency audit specialist and a consultant for public and private third parties. In 2020 and for its achievements in Madagascar, ANKA was awarded "Best Start up" by the ARE, and "Africa Solar Company of the Year" by the AFSIA. Camille has 8 years of professional experience in the financial, organizational, technical and social management of rural electrification projects and more generally low-carbon and Ren projects. She has extensive experience in characterization of local potential, technical-financial modeling, dialogue with local stakeholders, fund raising, regulatory systems and national policies, pricing, monitoring and evaluation, etc. Prior to ANKA, Camille first worked for ENGIE and Ernst & Young amongst others. She holds an Engineering degree and a Master degree in economics, finance and trading of energy and low carbon project management.



Olivier Dubois,
Food and Agriculture Organization

Olivier Dubois a Senior Natural Resources Officer and Coordinator of FAO's work on Energy Experienced Senior Officer with a demonstrated history of working in the international affairs industry. Skilled in Sustainable Agrifood Systems, Sustainable Forestry, Rural Development, Energy, and Bioeconomy. Strong research and field professional graduated from Faculty of Agronomy, Gembloux, Belgium. Fluent in English, French and Portuguese and good command of Spanish and Italian.



Rim Azirar,
SunFunder

Rim joined SunFunder in May 2018 to lead transactions in West Africa, covering both off-grid solar and other productive use, microgrid and commercial & industrial solar opportunities in the region. She joined from responsAbility Investments where she worked for more than four years completing agriculture investments in Africa. Before that she started her career at BNP Paribas in the structured finance department. Rim was born in Morocco, speaks 5 languages and holds a Bachelor and Master's degrees from Sciences Po Paris.



Juliane van Voorst tot Voorst,
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
Partnership

Juliane joined REEEP in late 2018 to manage the operations of the Private Financing Advisory Network. In late 2020 she started to transition into the role of Head of Financial Instruments, supporting local financial institutions in servicing the clean energy sector. Juliane has 10+ years of experience in corporate and investment banking. During her work in São Paulo, New York and London, she was in charge of originating and structuring transactions, including project finance, acquisition financing and securitization, in emerging markets across Latin America and Eastern Europe. Juliane also worked with a Private Equity fund that invests in NGOs and social enterprises in exchange for significant and incremental social returns. This impactful experience opened her eyes to the world of sustainability. Juliane holds a bachelor degree in Business Administration and System Analysis, and an MBA from Yale University in the USA.



Passy Amayo Ogolla,
Society for International Development

Ms. Passy Ogolla is currently serving as a Program Manager at the Society for International Development (SID); leading the implementation of the Sustainable Energy Futures (SEF) for Eastern Africa Programme's research, dialogue and evidence-based policy recommendation processes and any linkages to climate change and environmental related activities, with a focus on Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The initial implementation stages of the SEF Programme resulted in the publication of the energy scenarios report, Energy for Whom? Scenarios for Eastern Africa, which is currently used as a tool for testing energy and climate policies, investments and choices within the Energy Reference Group. She is a member of the official Children and Youth Constituency to the United Nations Framework Convention in Climate Change (YOUNGO), and the Constituency's representative at the UNFCCC Technology Executive Committees (TEC) Taskforce on Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement. Ms. Ogolla is the Regional Focal Point for East and Southern Africa at the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UNMGCY)'s SDG7 Youth Constituency, having formerly served as the SDG16 Regional Focal Point for East Africa in 2019. 2019 stood as a pivotal year for global children and youth involvement in the global climate agenda. It is in that year that Ms. Ogolla took up more nationally focused engagements. During the 4th United Nations Environmental Assembly in Nairobi, she partnered with German youth delegates to raise awareness among young people on the climate crisis, and together partnered with Youth for Climate Kenya to organize the first Fridays for Future Climate March in Nairobi on 15 March 2019, delivering messages from young people to world leaders during the closing plenary of UNEA4. In May 2019, Ms. Ogolla joined with global youth to create an online climate petitions series on Change.org dubbed All in For Climate Action (AifCA), to act as a platform for raising awareness on the current global climate crisis, as well as place pressure on all citizens and world leaders to take immediate climate action for the sake of securing a sustainable future for all. The online youth movement consists of 91 young climate champions from across the globe who have mobilized more than 1.7 million signatures in support for a youth call for immediate climate action to world leaders.



Tanya Kothari,
Shell Foundation

Tanya Kothari leads research, evidence generation and advocacy for Shell Foundation's energy and agriculture portfolio. Prior to this role, Tanya managed Shell Foundation's gender inclusion programme in India, while supporting the development of the portfolio across energy and agriculture sectors. Before joining Shell Foundation, Tanya worked in diverse commercial and technical roles in Market Intelligence, Supply Chain Excellence and Engineering within the Shell Group.



Claudio Pedretti,
Alliance for Rural Electrification Steering

Claudio Pedretti - President @ Alliance for Rural Electrification Steering Committee Member @ REN21 Renewable energy serial entrepreneur, off-grid & distributed generation expert, startup founder. At the forefront to defeat energy poverty and climate change. Renewable energy serial entrepreneur, off-grid & distributed generation expert, startup founder. At the forefront to defeat energy poverty and climate change.



Jonathan Phillips,
Duke University

Phillips is the Director of the Energy Access Project at Duke University, with an appointment at the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions. His work focuses on policy, regulatory, and economic issues related to rural electrification, grid de-carbonization, off-grid energy systems, and energy for productivity. Phillips was the senior advisor to the president and CEO of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation during the Obama Administration, helping scale-up the agency's climate finance capabilities and lead the implementation of strategic initiatives, including the agency's \$2.1 billion Power Africa portfolio. Before that, Phillips led private sector engagement and programming with Power Africa at USAID, helping ramp-up the \$300 million presidential initiative into one of the largest public-private development partnerships in the world. From 2007-2014, he held a variety of roles in the U.S. Congress, most recently serving as the senior policy advisor to Senator Ed Markey of Massachusetts. He supported many notable legislative efforts, including serving as one of the lead authors of the Waxman-Markey cap-and-trade bill that passed the House in 2009. He also served on the House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming as well as the House Natural Resources Committee. Phillips was a business and economic development volunteer with the Peace Corps in Mongolia. He received a bachelor's degree from the Milwaukee School of Engineering and a master's degree in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School.