

EU-AU-IIASA Evidence and Policy: Water-Energy-Food Nexus

30 August - 2 September 2016

European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Italy

Biographies



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Coordination Team

Melis Alguadis

 @MelisAguadis



Policy Officer at the European Commission (DG JRC)

Melis Alguadis is Policy analyst at the Joint Research Center (JRC) of the European Commission. She is responsible for overseeing JRC's work supporting EU development, humanitarian and security policies. Before the JRC, Melis worked as a consultant managing large scale EU projects in Ethiopia and Guinea and as policy analyst at the European Commission's Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development, where she was in charge of the coordination of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy.

Silvia Imarisio

Finance officer and Coordinator of events with youth and general public at the European Commission (DG JRC)



Silvia Imarisio is responsible for financial and contractual matters, procurements and experts. She works at the Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy under the Directorate in charge of the Knowledge management, specifically on Thematic Coordination. She has a genuine enthusiasm for communication activities and for motivating young people in science. She worked at a school visit program and animates outreach activities which aim to showcase the JRC research, raising awareness of science among young people and encourage students to choose a career in science and technology. She has been working in the European Commission since 1982

Laura Iloviceanu

Communication Assistant at the European Commission (DG JRC)



Laura Iloviceanu has worked as Communication Assistant at the Joint Research Centre since 2013. She studied public relations and has a master's degree in communication and advertising, focused in particular on the design of communication campaigns in Europe and Africa. Before coming to the Joint Research Centre, Laura worked as project officer for the Romanian Ministry of Justice, coordinating EU projects and got experience in communication and immigration issues working for the Ministry of Interior – Immigration Office in Romania for more than 7 years. She had a beautiful working experience teaching ethics to students for a few years.



Stephen Davies

 [@Stephen_EUK](#)

Policy Officer at the European Commission (DG JRC)

Stephen Davies comes from the UK and has worked for the European Commission since 1999, firstly in the Research Training Networks programme of DG Research and Innovation and then, from 2005, in DG Home Affairs where he developed and managed the European Migration Network. He joined DG Joint Research Centre in February 2013 where he works on developing competencies in the use of evidence to inform policy and monitors DG JRC's contributions to support policy developments in DG GROW (Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs). Stephen is a physicist by training, studying at the Universities of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and of Warwick, and then worked at the JET nuclear fusion project prior to joining the Commission



David Mair

 [@DavidMair4](#)

Head of Unit at the European Commission (DG JRC)

David Mair has worked for the European Commission since 1995 and in the Joint Research Centre since 2011 as Head of Unit responsible for Science advice to policy and the JRC Work Programme. From January 2016 he was appointed also as Head of the Task Force "Knowledge Centres and Knowledge Sharing" and currently he is Head of the Unit on Knowledge Management for geographic coordination. Since April 2015 to December 2016 he was Acting Director for Policy Support Coordination. From 1998 to 2011 he worked in DG Health and Consumers, involved in policy strategy, enforcement issues and consumer research, data and statistics. From 2007 to 2011 he was Head of Unit for consumer market monitoring and analysis, responsible for the Consumer Markets Scoreboard. Before the Commission he worked for the UK Treasury in Brussels and London and has also worked in the City of London as a corporate financier and in the British Army. He studied History at Cambridge University.



Marta Sienkiewicz

Program Assistant at the European Commission (DG JRC)

Sociologist by training, Marta Sienkiewicz dedicated to practical applications of research in making our world a better place, one step at a time. Currently Program Assistant in European Commission's Joint Research Centre, where she contributes to strengthening evidence-based policymaking, capacity building in science advice to policy, as well as knowledge management within the Commission. Prior to her career in the EU, she worked as a researcher and/or project coordinator in a number of academic and non-governmental research projects, including University of Amsterdam, University of Oxford and leading Polish NGOs working on urban social and cultural issues. Originally from Warsaw, she received her BSc in Applied Social Sciences at the University of Warsaw and a MSc in Sociology at the University of Amsterdam, with a specific focus on urban matters and political sociology. She also studied at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Enthusiast of art, culture and green urban areas.

Distinguished Invitees

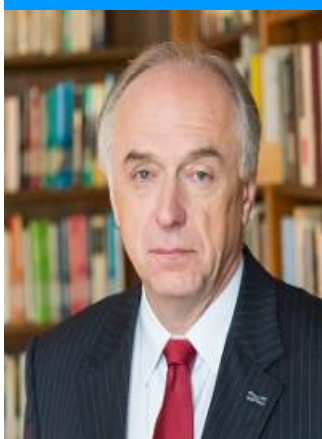


Sir Peter Gluckman

 [@PeterGluckman](#)

Chief Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of New Zealand and co-chair of the World Health Organization Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity (ECHO)

In 2009 Sir Peter Gluckman was appointed the first Chief Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of New Zealand, and in 2014, co-chair of the World Health Organization Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity (ECHO). He was Professor of Paediatric and Perinatal Biology and former Director of the Gravida National Centre for Growth and Development, until mid-2009. His current research interests are focused on the developmental origins of health and disease, epigenetics, the public understanding of science, evolutionary medicine and in the interface between human and pastoral animal biology. He believes that science must not be immune from its community and developed LENSscience - an elaborate programme of experiential involvement of school children in science. He is the only New Zealander elected to the Institute of Medicine of the United States National Academies of Science and a Fellow of Academy of Medical Sciences of Great Britain.



Pavel Kabat

 [@IIASAVienna](#)

Director General and Chief Executive Officer of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)

Professor Kabat is Director General and Chief Executive Officer of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), an independent, global international science and science to policy institute with 22 member countries, more than 400 international staff, and a global research network of ~2,500 scholars and almost 300 partner institutions. He is also Full Professor of Earth System Science at Wageningen University in the Netherlands, Founding Chair and Director of the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences and Arts Institute for Integrated Research on the Wadden Sea Region, a Member of the Leadership Council for the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, and Co-Founder of the High Level Alpbach – Laxenburg Group. Trained as a mathematician and hydrologist, Professor Kabat's almost 30 year research career has covered earth system science and global change, with a specific focus on land-atmosphere interactions, climate hydrology, water cycle and water resources.



Krzysztof Maruszewski

Director of the JRC Knowledge Management Directorate

Prof. Maruszewski graduated in 1988 from the Faculty of Basic Problems of Technology of the Wrocław Technical University, Poland. He began his doctoral studies at Marquette University, USA in 1989, where he continued research as an Associate Researcher during his post-doctoral work (1992 – 1995). In 1995, he started working in the Institute of Low Temperature and Structure Research in Wrocław and in the Chemistry Department of the Opole University. He was first vice-Director and then Director of the Institute of Materials Science and Applied Mechanics of the Wrocław University of Technology. In February 2007, he took the post of Director of Programmes and Stakeholders Relations at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Brussels. In November 2009, he moved to the position of Director of JRC's Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements in Geel, Belgium. In January 2013, he took the post of Director of JRC's Institute for Health and Consumer Protection in Ispra, Italy. Since July 2016, he is the Director of the JRC Knowledge Management Directorate.



Paul Rübzig

 [@PaulRuebig](https://twitter.com/PaulRuebig)

Member of the European Parliament

Paul Rübzig has been a member of the European Parliament since 1996 and belongs to the European People's Party (EPP). He is the owner of an Austrian blacksmith company and has a degree in Business administration, marketing and production engineering from the University of Linz, Upper Austria. Paul Rübzig is full member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and of the Committee on Budgets. He is Vice-Chair of the Delegation for relations with the Korean Peninsula and substitute member of the Delegation for relations with Switzerland, Norway and of the EU-Iceland Joint Parliamentary Committee and the European Economic Area (EEA) Joint Parliamentary Committee. Furthermore, Paul Rübzig is also a substitute member in the Committee on Development. Paul Rübzig is very active in the field of the small-scale business promotion. He is president of SME Global, a working group of the International Democrat Union, whose objective it is to support small and medium-sized enterprises and to improve their business environment. Paul Rübzig is also Chair of STOA (Science and Technology Options Assessment).



Maive Rute

 [@MaiveRute](https://twitter.com/MaiveRute)

Deputy Director-General of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC)

Maive Rute joined the European Commission in 2005 to become Director for the Promotion of SMEs and Entrepreneurship in DG Enterprise and Industry. She brought in her extensive management experience in the Estonian private and semi-public sector, notably five years as CEO of KredEx, the funding body for businesses, housing, innovation and export. In the Commission, Ms Rute also worked as Director for Biotechnologies and Agriculture Research and as Resource Director in DG Research and Innovation until April 2016. Ms Rute graduated as an agricultural economist from the Estonian University of Life Sciences. She holds an MBA from the Danube University, Austria, and received an MA in international politics from CERIS, Brussels.



Flavia Schlegel

 [@UNESCO](https://twitter.com/UNESCO)

Assistant Director-General for the Natural Sciences Sector at UNESCO

Flavia Schlegel is the holder of a Medical Doctorate and a Master's Degree in Organizational Development. She joined the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health in 1997, as Director of the AIDS Section, responsible for the design, planning and coordination of the national HIV/AIDS policy. She then became Director of the Health Policy, Research and Education Division. In 2002, Ms Schlegel worked with the Swiss State Secretariat for Education and Research serving as Science Counselor for the United States and Canada with the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington D.C. After she returned to the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health taking up the position of Vice-Director, Head of the Public Health Directorate and Member of the Executive Board until September 2008 when she was appointed Director of Swissnex China and Vice-Consul General based in Shanghai (China). Since October 2013, Flavia Schlegel worked as an independent consultant for Public Management dealing with international cooperation, strategy and project development and change and diversity management.



Vladimir Šucha

 [@VladimirSucha](https://twitter.com/VladimirSucha)

Director General of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

Vladimir Šucha is Director-General of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, its in-house scientific service. He was Deputy Director-General of the JRC between 2012 and 2013. Prior to that, he spent 6 years in the position of director for culture and media in the Directorate-General for Education and Culture of the European Commission. Before joining the European Commission, he held various positions in the area of European and international affairs. Between 2005 and 2006, he was director of the Slovak Research and Development Agency, national body responsible for funding research. He was principal advisor for European affairs to the minister of education of the Slovak Republic (2004-2005). He worked at the Slovak Representation to the EU in Brussels as research, education and culture counselor (2000-2004). In parallel, he has followed a long-term academic and research career, being a full professor in Slovakia and visiting professor/scientist at different academic institutions in many countries. He published more than 100 scientific papers in peer reviewed journals.



David Wilkinson

Sustainable Resources Director, Joint Research Centre

David is a Chartered Engineer and a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology and a Fellow of the Institute of Physics.

After graduating, David worked at the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge and was awarded a PhD in Theoretical Condensed Matter Physics in 1981. He then worked for 14 years as a consulting systems engineer in the UK prior to joining the European Commission in 1995. In the Joint Research Centre he has worked in a wide range of areas where science supports the EU policy process, including environment, security and nuclear decommissioning. In 2013 David was appointed to lead the EU's participation in the EXPO Milano 2015 on the theme of feeding the planet. He took up his current position as Director of the Sustainable Resources Directorate (former Institute for the Environment and Sustainability) in April 2015.

Facilitators

Girum Abebe Tefera



Researcher and the Director for Micro and Sectoral Research Center at the Ethiopian Development Research Institute

Girum Abebe Tefera obtained Ph.D in Development Economics from the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo, Japan. His main research interests are the applications of field experiments and behavioral economics to study the constraints that face enterprises and job seekers in developing countries. He has been actively engaged in field experiment designs, particularly in the implementations and impact evaluations of business and management skills training to young entrepreneurs and the impact evaluation of job search assistance schemes to young unemployed job-seekers. He is currently working on the impact evaluation of an internship program for young aspiring entrepreneurs, on the exploration of spillover effects between foreign and local businesses as well as on links between productivity, wages, labor compliance and industrial relations in the manufacturing sector in Ethiopia.

Alex Ademokun



Researcher at the Research and Evidence Division at the Department for International Development

Alexander Ademokun is a research specialist and advisor in the Evidence into Action team part of the Research and Evidence Division at DFID. In this role he oversees a portfolio of programmes focused on improving the production of, access to and use of research evidence in decision making from both the supply and demand side. Alex supports the use of research evidence in DFID decision making by working with policy teams to identify emerging evidence needs in priority policy areas and responding with rigorous and relevant evidence products. Before joining DFID, Alex was the Senior Programme Manager for Evidence-Informed Policy Making at INASP, a UK based organization that works across the knowledge sector in 22 countries. Alex is a biologist by training and worked as a research scientist before he decided to hang up his lab coat and wear a jacket instead.



Joanne Bayer

Program Director at the Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

Joanne Linnerooth-Bayer is Program Director of the Risk and Resilience (RISK) Program at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Laxenburg, Austria. She is an economist by training, and has received a BS and PhD at Carnegie-Mellon University and the University of Maryland, respectively. Her current interest is climate change and the risk of catastrophic events, and she is investigating options for reducing climate-related risks and transferring these risks through affordable insurance programs in transition and developing countries. She and her colleagues have carried out extensive research on this topic and are developing options for donor communities, as well as the climate adaptation community, to support prevention, insurance and other forms of pro-active disaster assistance. Dr. Bayer served as lead author on two recent reports of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and is an associate editor of the Journal for Risk Research and on the editorial board of Risk Analysis, Risk Abstracts, and Journal of Natural Resources Policy Research.

Alan Belward

Head of Unit Global Environment Monitoring at the European Commission (DG JRC)

Alan Belward works at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in Italy where he is Head of the Global Environment Monitoring Unit – this group provides information for European policies dealing with climate change, natural resource management and development-aid. He has a BSc in Plant Biology from Newcastle University, UK and a PhD addressing remote sensing of global vegetation dynamics from Cranfield University, UK. He is part of the Global Climate Observing System's Steering Committee, a member of the NASA and USGS Landsat satellite Science Team and a member of the European Space Agency's Sentinel-2 satellite Mission Advisory Group. He is a visiting lecturer at the Technical University of Vienna, where he teaches Environmental Technologies and International Affairs.



Laurent Bontoux

Policy Analyst at the European Commission (DG JRC)

Laurent Bontoux holds a food technology engineering degree from ENSIA (Paris) and a DEA from the Technological University in Compiègne as well as a MS and PhD in environmental engineering from the University of California at Berkeley (USA). Laurent started his professional career ensuring the environmental safety of household products at Procter & Gamble in Brussels. After joining the European Commission, he was mostly dealing with science to inform policy making, especially regarding risk assessment. At DG JRC he worked on issues such as environmental technologies foresight, environment & health issues and life-cycle assessment. At DG SANCO he managed the independent Scientific Committee for Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) and dealt with nanotechnologies, antimicrobial resistance and the health effects of electromagnetic fields. He also worked at DG RTD in the Environment & Health area.





Geoff Clarke

Senior Science Officer at the Institute for Applied Systemes Analysis

Prior to joining IIASA in 2014, Dr Clarke was employed at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in Australia. In a career spanning almost 30 years at CSIRO, Dr Clarke held a number of senior positions in research, research management, operational, strategic and change management, which included a six-year tenure as Chief of Staff/Senior Adviser to the Chief Executive. Dr Clarke has a PhD in Genetics from the University of Melbourne (Australia) and a Graduate Certificate in Change Management from the Australian Graduate School of Management. He is also a graduate of the joint Harvard/Stanford Leading Change and Organizational Renewal executive program. During the period 2008-2012, Dr Clarke worked in Vienna as the Head of Science Support at the Gregor Mendel Institute for Molecular Plant Biology as well as undertaking a number of editorial and advisory roles for the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation and IIASA.



Claire Craig

 [@RoyalSociety](https://twitter.com/RoyalSociety)

Director of Science Policy at the Royal Society, United Kingdom

Claire Craig is Director of Science Policy at the Royal Society, the independent scientific academy of the UK and the Commonwealth, dedicated to promoting excellence in science. Previously Claire led the Government Office for Science which supports the Government's Chief Scientific Advisor (GCSA). The GCSA provides science advice to the Prime Minister and the Cabinet; and builds capacity across government to provide and use science evidence. Claire originally joined the Civil Service to run Foresight, a programme of science-based strategic futures projects, covering topics from flood risk to cognitive enhancement. While at Foresight, she was awarded a CBE for her work, and became a Faculty member of the World Economic Forum at Davos.



Emanuele Cuccillato

 [@ECuccillato](https://twitter.com/ECuccillato)

Policy Analyst at the European Commission (DG JRC)

Emanuele Cuccillato joined the Joint Research Centre in 2014 inspired by the idea to work for the future of Europe. He works on design for policy at the heart of the EU Policy Lab and he is passionate about helping to find solutions that work by facilitating collaboration across disciplines. Before 2014 he lived in Africa and Asia working on international development, climate change, knowledge management, strategic planning and evaluation with multilateral, bilateral, and non-governmental organizations. He engaged in interdisciplinary initiatives such as the development of the evaluation frameworks of the national climate change strategies of Cambodia and Mozambique, knowledge management for climate change adaptation in China, integrated research and interdisciplinary modelling for the sustainable management of mountain ecosystems in Nepal, Pakistan and China, and soil and water conservation in Tunisia. He holds a MSc in Forestry and Environmental Management (2000) awarded by the University of Florence, Italy.



Phil Davies

Deputy Director of the Systematic Reviews section at the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation, Oxford Evidentia

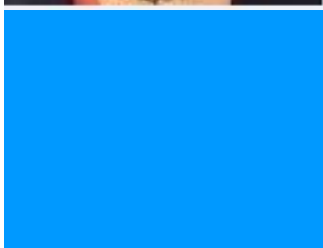
Phil Davies received a PhD in Sociology from University of California, San Diego and has held academic positions at the Universities of Oxford, Aberdeen, University of California, San Diego. Previously he is Executive Director of the public policy consultancy Oxford Evidentia. He held positions as Senior Research Fellow at the American Institutes for Research and as Executive Director of the Campbell Collaboration. He worked with the African Union Commission and the World Bank on the evaluation of poverty reduction programs. As senior civil servant of the UK Cabinet Office (2000-2007) he co-authored the Green and Magenta book on impact assessment and evaluation.



Anna Fruttero

Economist with the Poverty and Equity Global Practice at the World Bank Group

Anna Fruttero is a Senior Economist with the Poverty and Equity Global Practice at the World Bank Group in Washington DC. Previously she has been a core team member of the 2015 World Development Report "Mind, Society, and Behavior", and has worked extensively on poverty and social protection issues in Latin America and the Caribbean. She led the implementation and technical support of World Bank projects in Brazil, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic, as well as analytical research on individual countries and regional studies. Her research interests include distributional impact of shocks, ex-ante and ex-post impact evaluations of social programs, and female labor force participation. She has taught undergraduate and graduate level courses at New York University and Johns Hopkins University. Anna holds a PhD in Economics from New York University.

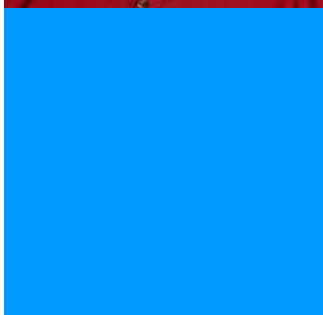


Ken Hughey



Chief Science Advisor for the Department of Conservation, Wellington, New Zealand

Ken Hughey is Professor of Environmental Management at Lincoln University, New Zealand; he is also Chief Science Advisor for the Department of Conservation, Wellington, New Zealand. Ken's research interests are broad but include water resources management, perceptions of state of the environment and sustainable tourism. Also in the area of water resources he is lead developer of the River Values Assessment System (RiVAS). He is heavily involved in water resource projects and is a member of the Hurunui Waiau Water Zone Committee and on the board of the Waihora Ellesmere Trust.





Francois Kayitakire

Senior scientist and Team Leader at the European Commission (DG JRC)

Francois Kayitakire is a senior scientist at the Joint Research Centre in the Food Security Unit of the Directorate Sustainable Resources based in Italy. He's leading a team working on resilience and on food and nutrition security assessment within the Food Security Group. His current activities focus on resilience for food and nutrition security, in particular the resilience measurement, food and nutrition security assessments and on agricultural risk management in developing countries. Francois' first assignment at the European Commission in 2005 was within the Unit for Global Security and Crisis Management at the JRC. He developed a quantitative model to estimate the risk and understand the root causes of armed conflicts as a part of an EU early-warning system for conflict. He worked also on monitoring natural resources that are susceptible to fuel armed conflicts, and on the use of satellite imagery to support post-disaster needs assessments. Francois holds a Ph.D. degree in Agricultural Sciences, with a thesis in remote sensing, from the Universite Catholique de Louvain, Belgium.



Rob Maas

Scientific advisor at RIVM, the Netherlands Institute for Public Health and Environment

Rob Maas is economist and senior scientific advisor at RIVM, the Netherlands Institute for Public Health and Environment. Since 1994 he is chairing the UNECE Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling. This Task Force integrates scientific knowledge on emissions, impacts, costs and benefits to support negotiations on the abatement of long-range transboundary air pollution. He was responsible for the economic aspects of the first national environmental outlook "Concern of Tomorrow" in 1988 and the first National Environmental Policy Plan (1989). From 1989-2006 he was responsible for environmental policy assessments both at the national and the international level. From 2006-2012 he was head of Air and Emissions department. Currently he advises on sustainability issues, cost-benefit analyses and the treatment of uncertainties in complex policy issues



Darren McGarry

Communication Officer at the European Commission (DG JRC)

Darren McGarry works at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), the science and knowledge centre of the Commission. Within the JRC Darren is responsible for communication specifically in the energy, transport and climate change domain. Areas of expertise include science communication, crisis, professional moderator, public speaking, innovative communication, visualization and interactive communication tools. He obtained his Degree in Communication & Master of Science Degree in advanced materials technology in the University of Surrey, UK and he is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations.



Nyasha Musandu

[@NMusandu](#)

Associate Training at CommsConsult

Nyasha Musandu is the CommsConsult Training specialist. She manages a unit which delivers tailor made, fit-for-purpose capacity building solutions for development practitioners dealing with complex communication challenges. She is a strategic communication and tactical support specialist with experience in leading and supporting communication and policy engagement interventions for researchers, knowledge intermediaries and development practitioners. Her role includes identifying and developing capacity strengthening modules to meet the varying communication needs of organizations. Her interest lies in using communication as a transformative tool for improving development outcomes. She also brings an understanding of the challenges and underlying complexities of trying to inform development outcomes through engaging in decision-making processes.



Isayvani Naicker

[@IsayvaniNaicker](#)

Chief Director of International Resources in the National Department of Science and Technology in South Africa

Isayvani Naicker has a PhD in Science Policy from the University of Cambridge and Master Degrees in Geology and Computer Science and Philosophy of Social Science from the University of Cape Town and London School of Economics respectively. During her research career she has built strong professional links with key audiences in government, the private sector and academia. She is a Research Associate at the Centre for Science and Policy at the University of Cambridge and a Visiting Research Fellow at the School for Public and Development Management at the University of Witwatersrand.

Her career has developed from scientist/researcher across technical areas (geology and computer science to social sciences and the environment, information and communication technology for development, to innovation and sustainability) to senior international scientific resources manager and partner, scientific advisor and reviewer.



Oladoyin Odubanjo

[@doyinodubanjo](#)

Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Academy of Science

Oladoyin Odubanjo is also the Chairman of the Association of Public Health Physicians of Nigeria. Dr Odubanjo is an Adviser to the Centre for Palliative Care Nigeria and was also recently appointed a member of the steering committee for Africa of the International Network for Government Science Advice. Dr Odubanjo was instrumental to a successful transition of the Nigerian Academy of Science from a largely honorific organization to one that provides evidence-informed advice to government and other stakeholders. In the last eight years, Dr Odubanjo has collaborated with various African academies and the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) on diverse projects aimed at informing policy. He has also been a facilitator at training workshops for staff of African science academies on bridging the evidence to policy gap. He was a consultant to NASAC in the development of her strategic plan and was one of the authors of NASAC's policymakers' booklet on climate change adaptation in Africa.



Philippe Quevauviller

Research Programming and Policy Officer at European Commission (DG HOME)

Philippe Quevauviller has been researcher in oceanography in the years 1983-1989 at the University of Bordeaux in particular in the framework of cooperation with the Portuguese Environment Ministry in Lisbon and the Dutch Ministry for Public Works in The Hague. He obtained two PhDs (oceanography and chemistry) and the highest French University degree. He started his career at the European Commission in 1989 as scientific officer at DG Research, then as policy officer at DG Environment, and moved to the DG Home Secure Societies Programme in 2013. Besides his work at the European Commission, he is also Associate Professor at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and a scientific writer and editor.



Clara Richards

 [@Clarari1](https://twitter.com/Clarari1)

Programme Manager at INASP

Clara Richards is Senior Programme Manager at INASP and Director of the VakaYiko consortium, she is an expert in evidence-informed policy-making (EIPM). In her current role, she designs and implements interventions to support research communication and use across the African continent, especially in West and South East Africa and the Middle East and North Africa regions. She has previously worked as an independent consultant on policy influence and evidence-informed policy in various contexts, including Africa, Latin America and Asia. Clara has also worked closely with the Research and Policy in Development (RAPID) programme in the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) to coordinate the Evidence-Based in Development Network (ebpdn). She was formerly based in Argentina at the think tank, CIPPEC, where she spent over five years developing the policy influence and evaluation capacities of Latin American think tanks, and coordinating the Latin American network of ebpdn.



Fabiana Scapolo

 [@fabianasc25](https://twitter.com/fabianasc25)

Deputy Head of Unit at the European Commission (DG JRC)

Fabiana Scapolo has 15-year experience of working on Foresight, but her main interest is on the advancement on the application of Foresight as an instrument for policy-making formulation. Her main task is to strengthen the JRC function on Foresight and Horizon scanning and to explore how foresight can be used as a tool for policy innovation. She has been involved in several foresight projects aiming at reinforcing the position of the JRC as a centre for Foresight at European and international level. Fabiana has a Master is in Political Sciences awarded from the University of Milan and a PhD on foresight methodologies awarded from the University of Manchester.



Peter de Smedt

 @PeterSmedt

Responsible for TransitieLab in Belgium

Peter De Smedt has a background in environmental research on Ecological System Analyses (MSc. 1996, PhD candidate 1996-1999, KU Leuven BE). His major professional challenge is to connect science and policy. On a broad range of regional and EU projects, involving Foresight, Strategic Roadmapping, Horizon Scanning and Integrated Assessment, Peter works together with experts and stakeholders towards achieving a common understanding on non-sustainable trends, offering scenarios and integrated solutions to support policy-makers. In the past, Peter worked at DG Research and Innovation and DG Joint Research Centre of the European Commission as Scientist/Foresight Analyst. Currently he is responsible for starting-up TransitieLab, a new policy lab for Connecting in Change, located in Brussels



Simon Tamungang

Senior Lecturer and Researcher in Ecology and Conservation in the Department of Animal Biology, University of Dschang, Head of Department of Basic Sciences in the College of Technology, University of Bamenda, Cameroon

Simon Tamungang is a senior conservation professional, an international wildlife consultant and member of many conservation networks around the world. He holds two academic positions in Cameroon; first, a Senior Lecturer and Researcher in Ecology and Conservation in the Department of Animal Biology, University of Dschang; second, Head of Department of Basic Sciences in the College of Technology, University of Bamenda. He is an alumnus of two Commonwealth Fellowships in the United Kingdom: first, a Commonwealth Postdoctoral Fellow in the University of Nottingham in the '*Use of Information Technology in Wildlife Management*'; second, a Commonwealth Professional Fellow at the Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich in '*Advanced New Techniques in Bird Populations and Avian Resources Conservation*'. As a strategic planner and advisor to the Government of Cameroon and many civil society organisations on the transformative journey in advancing Science, Technology and Innovation, Simon has assisted as prominent team member in operational ICT planning for development, organizational structures implementation in universities, scalable networking for rural development, information and environmental systems design for sustainable development in Cameroon. Simon has published extensively in the areas of Applied Ecology, Animal Behaviour, Conservation Science Practice and Policy.



Nelson Torto

Founding Chief Executive Officer of the Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation, Fellow of the Botswana Academy of Sciences, Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences as well as Fellow of The Royal Society of Chemistry

Nelson Torto is the Founding Chief Executive Officer of the Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation in Gaborone, Botswana. He is a Fellow of the Botswana Academy of Sciences, Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences as well as Fellow of The Royal Society of Chemistry. He graduated with a BSc Hons in Chemistry from the University of Manchester, MSc in Chemistry from the University of Botswana and PhD in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Lund (Sweden). He has published extensively, registered patents, graduated 19 PhDs, gave keynote and plenary lectures around the world and has won several awards including the American Chemical Society's Young Investigator Award in Separation Science. He is the former Founding Director of the Centre for Scientific Research, Indigenous Knowledge and Innovation at the University of Botswana, former Professor and Head of Chemistry at Rhodes University (South Africa) and Founding secretary general for the African Network of Analytical Chemists. He has been involved in driving policy change with respect to introduction of cost effective and environmentally friendly building material as well as the uptake of solar street lighting to provide equal opportunities for rural communities and also reduce costs in urban settlements. He is a qualified and accredited Time To Think™ Coach as well as a Time To Think™ Facilitator

Policy

Khairhe Allaleh Abdoukader



Head of Planning Service of ODDEG, Presidency of the Republic of Djibouti

Khairhe Allaleh is an Engineer on Energy with Masters on Renewable Energy. He's professionally trained in Iceland, where he has graduated in Geothermal Power Plant Design from United Nations University Geothermal Training Program in 2012. Currently, he works in the Ministry of Energy of Djibouti as a Head of Renewable Energy Service from 2011 to 2014. During that time, he was project manager for commissioning solar street light project in front of High School. Since 2014 up to now, he is responsible of all planning project under the Djiboutian Office for Geothermal Energy Development. He is responsible of programming geothermal project and Implementation of framework for geothermal projects planning.

Adeniran Akanni



Asst. Chief Scientific Officer at Ministry of Environment in Lagos, Nigeria

Adeniran Akanni holds a Master of Science degree in Environmental Governance from the United Nations University-Institute of Advanced Studies for Sustainability, Japan. A graduate from Nigeria's University of Ibadan with BSc in Zoology and MSc in Virology. As an Asst. Chief Scientific Officer in the Ministry of Environment, Lagos, Nigeria, his work cuts across policy development, implementation and monitoring activities in the field of environment generally. He manages natural development nexus from the view of land-use/land use change, water, waste and energy. At the International level, he represents Nigeria in the Intergovernmental Group on Earth Observation, Biodiversity Observation Network where he contributes to the task of global biodiversity and ecosystem monitoring as well as food security and sustained ecosystem and other cross-cutting activities like the Africa Water Cycle Coordination Initiative.

Nagy Attila



Deputy Director at the Hungarian National Food Chain Safety Office

Nagy Attila is a veterinarian, with a post-graduation in practical zoology as microbiologist and lawyer. He has 16 years professional experience and he was an epidemiologist in county level in case of the pig, poultry and fish species. He has been working since 2006 at the central level of the national food safety authorities, where he designed licensing procedure and control system of the private food and feed testing laboratories and developed the monitoring system in food and feed. In 2008 he also was involved to create the Hungarian Food-chain Law and he is working permanently to write some ministerial decree in the area of food-chain safety and quality. As Deputy-director he is responsible for the leadership and supervision of a countrywide laboratory system, hygiene ratings of food business machines and circuit organization of proficiency tests in food, feed and soil licensing.



Thabang Bambo

Deputy Director: Agricultural Biotechnology at the Ministry of Science and Technology, South Africa

Thabang Bambo is involved in the development of the implementation plan and the rollout of the South African Bio-economy Strategy in the Agriculture Sector. This involves interacting with researchers and policymakers across government to identify synergy as well as coordination with other government programmes and working groups. Mr Bambo further input onto Ministry's programmes that supports South African researchers in collaborative research projects funded by FP7, Horizon 2020, and the AU Research Grants, among others.



Aleš Bizjak

Secretary at the Head Office at the Slovenian Water Agency

Aleš Bizjak (B.Sc. Landscape Planning, M.Sc. Environmental Sciences and Policy, Ph. D. Civil Engineering), is Slovene national expert in the field of the Nexus Assessments and Stakeholder Engagement in Inclusive Water Planning. He is also the coordinator of national cross-sectorial interdisciplinary group of stakeholders and editor of the national response report to the UNECE. To a limited extent, he was involved as a consulting expert to the UNECE Sava Nexus Assessment and to the EC JRC Danube Nexus Assessment. Dr Bizjak holds a post in the Head Office of newly established Slovenian Water Agency. In the period from 2012 to 2015 he was also involved in EU co-financed water related projects, either as lead partner or partner. From 2016 on, he has the role of representative of the key national observer, Slovenian Water Agency.



Rosella Chiodo

 [@RossellaChiodo](https://twitter.com/RossellaChiodo)

Policy Analyst specialised in Better Regulation policy and Impact Assessment at European Commission (DG SANTE)

Rosella Chiodo has been working on Impact Assessment of EU policies since 2010 when she first joined the European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) Unit dealing with "Strategy and Analysis". In 2011, she moved to the "Relations with Agencies and Advisory Groups" Unit to work on a different aspect of evidence-based policy making: Stakeholders involvement and Agencies scientific input. In 2013, she joined the "Better Regulation" Unit, where she is an expert on Better Regulation, Impact Assessment and Stakeholder Consultation. Rossella holds an MA on European Political and Administrative Studies from the College of Europe, Bruges (Belgium). Before that, she obtained a Master in International Studies from the University of Siena. She graduated in Sociology and analysis of economic, organisational and labour processes from the University of Rome.



Lindiwe Dlamini

 [@LaNkhos](#)

Energy Officer at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy

Lindiwe Dlamini is a Bachelor Chemical Engineering and a Master of Science degree in Environmental Management. She worked in the sustainable energy and climate change field for 11 years with experience in policy, regulation, project and program development and project management. She worked on creating an enabling environment for investment in Swaziland's energy sector and have gained experience in working in Government, with the private sector, civil society, donor partners and investors. She is currently spearheading the United Nations Sustainable Energy for All initiative in Swaziland. In 2014, she was selected to be a Fellow under the Young African Leader's Initiative Mandela Washington Fellowship Program, an initiative aimed at empowering young African leaders for positive transformation of the African continent.

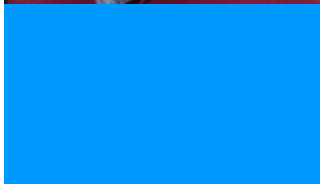


Silvano Domergue

 [@DodoMonpel](#)

Head of sustainable mobility and building at the French Ministry of Ecology

Silvano Domergue's experience is a mix of economic analyst positions, and more operational regulation and policy making positions. Currently he is working at the Ministry of Ecology on energy transition in car fleets and buildings where his tasks included the writing of the bill and its decrees, the impact studies, the stakeholder's consultation (suppliers, customers, grid operators, among others) and official consultations (Energy Regulator, Competition Authority, European Commission). The two pillars of the new regulation were the "regulated access to historical nuclear electricity", and the "capacity mechanism". This was an enlightening experience about the way each private actor supports its own interest.



Pilar Gumma Solernou

 [@gummapi](#)

Policy officer at the European Commission (DG AGRI)

Pilar Gumma Solernou was graduated on Veterinary Medicine in 1990. Public servant since 1991 when she started working for the Catalan government with previous experience in the private sector. Currently, She works for a horizontal unit which main objective is to ensure consistency on rural development throughout the European Union mainly on delimitation of areas facing natural constraints (areas where agriculture production suffers disadvantages due to constraints link to climate, soil and terrain) and on animal welfare.





Mark Honti

Research fellow in the MTA-BME Water Research Group of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Mark Honti is a civil engineer by graduation, but ever since being a PhD student his research was focused on different kinds of environmental models, from hydrology to ecology and environmental chemistry, from simple conceptual models to complex individual-based applications. Except for a postdoc period in Eawag (Swiss Federal Institute for Aquatic Research), he always worked for the Hungarian Academy of Sciences but managed to participate in many international scientific and consulting projects. In the last decade most projects were carried out with strong ties to management and policy. Uncertainty assessment and the implications of uncertainty are his current research topics.



Eric Gabriel Jenn

 [@gabrieljenn](https://twitter.com/gabrieljenn)

Technical Assistant to the Deputy Minister for Technical Services, Ministry of Public Works, Republic of Liberia

Eric Gabriel Jenn is the technical focal person on Integrated Infrastructure/Technical Assistant to the Deputy Minister for Technical Services at the Liberia's Ministry of Public Works. He has been working with the Ministry for 6 year. He served as Integrated Project Engineer for 4 years and currently as Integrated Infrastructure focal Person, crafting technical policies on the integration of water, electricity and roads into a single system that continues to serve the population.

He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering, a Master of Science Degree in Geotechnical Engineering (Hon.) and advance diploma in Urban Facilities Integration, Project Management, Sewerage and Drainage Engineering etc.



Yimenu Kassahun

 [@yimex29](https://twitter.com/yimex29)

Policy, Plan Preparation, Monitoring and Evaluation Expert at the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy

Yimenu Kassahun is graduated in Political Science and International Relations from Addis Ababa University (2004). In March 2012 he joined the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy on the position of Development Cooperation and Foreign Relation Expert. Here, he was involved in tasks which include coordinating and facilitating the implementation of bilateral and multilateral development cooperation agreements, and follow-up of the implementation progress of agreed minutes of joint ministerial commissions. Currently, he is working on the position of Policy, Plan Preparation ,Monitoring and evaluation at Senior Expert level and his duties include coordinating the ministry's long term and medium term plan, annual program budget and action plan preparation, Monitoring project performance and report on the status of implementation.



Yilak Akloweg Kebede

[@YilakAkloweg](#)

External Advisor to the Minister of Urban Development and Construction, Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Yilak Akloweg Kebede holds a PhD in Urban Infrastructure Development and Environment from Nagoya University, Japan, and a Masters of Management in International Development from Tsinghua University, China. He has undertaken various fellowships in Germany and India and coordinated different projects for UN-Habitat, UNDP, Bloomberg Philanthropies, GCF, CGCOC among others. Dr Kebede has published research in the International Journal of Urban Science and African Journal of Environmental Science and Technology.



Kinga Nadege Koulouar

[@nadegeda](#)

Legal Expert in Environment / Chef of Sectoral Policies Divisions within the Chadian Ministry of Economy

Kinga Nadège Koulouar is a young policymaker with over five years of experiences in policies development. Her experience with policy making ranges from trade policy, environment policy to intellectual property rights policy. She works permanently on sectorial policies for the Chadian Ministry of Economy. Concurrently, she is participating in the development of National Environment Policy for the Republic of Chad, led by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in her capacity as the National Legal Expert for UNDP. Ms. Kinga was the program Assistant for International IDEA (2011-2013), where she supported interparty dialogue processes in West Africa. A 2014 Mandela Washington Fellow, she was an elected Vice-chair of the Regional Advisory Board for West Africa.



Gesa Kuhlmann

Policy Officer at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Gesa Kuhlmann studied geology-paleontology at the universities of Kiel (Germany) and Bergen (Norway). In co-operation with the Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research (TNO) she received her PhD at the University of Utrecht (The Netherlands). She worked as researcher at the Helmholtz Centre Potsdam, German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ) within the INKABA yeAfrica co-operation between Germany and South Africa and latest at the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), Hannover. Her scientific areas of expertise are sedimentology and stratigraphy as well as paleoclimatology, marine geology, petroleum systems modeling and geological 3D models of the deeper subsurface. At the moment she is senior policy officer for the topics water, sanitation and waste as well as the Nexus-approach (BMZ) in Bonn



Christian Kurrer

Policy Analyst at the European Parliament

Christian Kurrer is a policy analyst at the European Parliamentary Research Service in the Scientific Foresight Unit (STOA), which supports the work of the European Parliament's Science and Technology Options Assessment Panel (Chairman: Paul Rübigen). He deals with scientific foresight for the anticipation of the impact of techno-scientific trends. Among others, he is covering the field of energy. Prior to joining the European Parliamentary Research Service, he was a policy officer for the European Commission (DG RTD) where he developed policies for research infrastructures and where he was involved in setting up the Scientific Advice Mechanism.

Christian Kurrer has a background in Physics, obtaining his Master degree from the Technical University of Munich and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA. Following Postdoctoral stays in Japan, South-Korea and France, he started his career in science and policy making at the German Research Council (DFG) in Bonn and at the state government's Scientific Advisory Commission in Hannover, Germany, before joining the European Commission's services in 2004



Sophie Lainé

Quality Management Officer for Water and Urban development at European Commission (DG DEVCO)

Sophie is a member of Unit on Water, Infrastructure and Cities which is leading on the Nexus Dialogues Phase I project which will support high-level nexus dialogue to achieve nexus action plans and pilot multi-sector infrastructure initiatives in five regions: Latin America, the Neighbourhood South (Mediterranean region), the Niger Basin, Southern Africa and in Central Asia (Aral Sea area). This project is co-financed by Germany and largely implemented by GIZ. Sophie has a legal and urban development background and has been working in Brussels for 11 years.



Ezthu Mandelize

 [@Christ4zee](https://twitter.com/Christ4zee)

Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at the Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results in South Africa

Ezthu is PHD candidate from the University of Johannesburg in South Africa. She is currently working for the Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa as a Monitoring and Evaluation officer. She also manages a programme within the CLEAR centre aimed at supporting the use of Monitoring and Evaluation as a source of evidence for oversight within African Legislatures. Ezthu has worked for various NGO's as a researcher and programme evaluator, as well as South African academic institutions, lecturing to a range of under-graduate students in the areas of Monitoring and Evaluation, Results based Management and Political Economy of Development.



Nazik Mohamed Ahmed

Assistant Researcher at the Ministry of Water Resource Irrigation and Electricity

Nazik Mohamed Ahmed obtained the Bachelor and master degrees in chemical engineering from Gezira university in 2008 and from Khartoum university in 2014. Since March 2015 she worked in the Hydraulic Research Center, her role in the HRC is conducting researches that are related to the water quality issues, collecting and analyzing data and preparing the final reports which are considered as an essential step in orienting to effective decisions such as Sediment Monitoring report, the Water Quality in Wad-Medani Wells Study among other duties. Last year she participated in workshops such as the validation workshop of the draft document on national action plan for the implementation of the Great Green wall for the Sahel and Sahara initiative and the Consultation Workshop On Framework For The Design Of Basin Wide Sediment and Water Quality Monitoring System.



Simona Montanari



Senior Teacher at the Ministry of Education in Italy

Simona is Senior Teacher of Humanities at the "Elsa Morante" High School in Sassuolo, Italy, with the Ministry of Education, University and Research, with frequent insertions from the sociology and politics of food and resources and the impact of global processes on individual choices, behaviour, and constraints. To this purpose, she collaborates with civil society agencies and grassroots advocacy organisations. Simona has been a civil servant with the Ministry of Education since 2007 and during this time she obtained research leave to pursue doctoral studies in International Development in London and lived for two years in Mozambique to investigate communal land and forest politics and policy. She's currently taking a break from dissertation writing in order to focus on the organisation of a collaborative workshop under the auspices of the British Association for International Affairs. Before joining MIUR, Simona completed an MPhil in Development Studies in Cambridge and a Certificate in Development Studies in The Hague and was interim Country Desk Officer at DG DEVCO of the EC in Brussels and Project Development Officer with Italian non-governmental organisations



Evelyn Namubiru- Mwaura

Strategy and Policy Manager at the African Academy of Sciences

Evelyn Namubiru-Mwaura she provides policy and strategic leadership in the development and delivery of AESA's scientific agenda for Africa. She has over fifteen years of experience in International Development, Policy and Strategic Management, and Natural Resources Governance through appointments with AGRA, the World Bank, UNREDD, UNDP-GEF, International Forestry Resources and Institutions (IFRI) and Makerere University. Evelyn holds a Joint PhD in Public Policy from Indiana University, a master of Environmental Management and Development from the Australian National University and a BSc (Hons) degree in Forestry from Makerere University. Her research interests include strategic and policy issues related to land and other natural resources governance, gender, Climate change, and Science Technology and Innovation.



Sandile Ngcamphalala

 @SandiNgcam

Advisory Services Manager for the Agricultural Research Council in South Africa

He works as Advisory Services Manager for the Agricultural Research Council in South Africa where he is responsible for technology transfer. He is also enrolled part-time as a PhD student in on Environmental Policy at the University of Cape Town, South Africa focusing on the role of monitoring and evaluation for water policy management in the context of climate change/variability uncertainty. His research "Climate Change Uncertainty and Water Management Policy Evaluation within the Agriculture Sector in South Africa", builds on a strong interest to develop a good understanding towards adaptive policy management and in particular the role of monitoring and evaluation to gather evidence for improved decision making in the context of uncertainty.



Pardon Njerere

 @paddystyles

Agricultural Policy Officer at the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development in Zimbabwe

Pardon Njerere is an agricultural economist who holds a Master degree in Agricultural and Applied Economics with specialization in agricultural policy analysis and rural development from the University of Zimbabwe. He has worked for the Ministry of Agriculture as an Agricultural Policy Research Officer since 2005. He has acquired a vast research experience (12 years) into developmental challenges of the smallholder rural farming systems, food security issues and climate change. His major areas of expertise include agricultural policy research; food security and vulnerability analysis; agricultural trade; agricultural marketing, value chain development, rural livelihoods, innovation systems and climate change. His key achievements include leading the drafting of the National Agriculture Policy Framework, National Livestock Policy and Contract Farming Framework. He has also acquired a lot of international training in food security analysis. He has also coordinated the NEPAD funded climate change project and also a fellow with the African Climate Change Fellowship Programme. He has an author to the Zimbabwe National Competitive Assessment Report 2015. He possesses strong analytical skills, computers skills and conversant with analytical packages and Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis tools.



Gift W. N. Phiri

Water Chemist at the Malawi Government in the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development under Water Resources Department

Gift W.N Phiri is currently studying MSc in Water Resources Modelling & Governance at the University of Malawi specializing in Governance. He holds a BSc degree majoring in Chemistry with four years working experience in the water sector. In 2012, he co-authored two papers which were published by Elsevier titled Determination of characteristics and drinking water quality index in Mzuzu City, Northern Malawi and An appraisal of public water supply and coverage in Mzuzu City, Northern Malawi. He also doubles as counterpart staff under the Shire River Basin Management Program which is being funded by the World Bank after a series of trainings with DHI Academy.



Ketakandriana Rafitoson Ep. Rabemananjara

[@KeRafitoson](#)

Head of the Legal Department at the *Office de Regulation de l'Electricité (ORE)* , Madagascar

Ketakandriana Rafitoson Ep. Rabemananjara, from Madagascar, is working for ORE (Office de Regulation de l'Electricité) as the Head of the Legal Department. She has been working there for more than 10 years and started as a simple Legal Advisor. Rafitoson holds a Master in Political Science and Public Law, another one in Population and Development, and a last one in Human Rights. Apart from her official position within ORE, Rafitoson is also actively involved in various CSOs and movements, such as the GRE, a reflection group about energy, and Wake Up Madagascar.



Juliard Auguste Rakotomalala

Director of Ecological Partnership Development at the Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Forests in Madagascar

Juliard Auguste Rakotomalala studied Law and Political Science at the Catholic University of Madagascar. After earning his Master's degree, he specialized in the field of environmental law and Master's degree in International Environmental Law from the University of Limoges, France. As Director of Ecological Partnership Development his main function is to promote Green Economy, Corporate Social Responsibility, Sustainable Tourism and Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) in the framework of Public – Private – Civil Society Partnership.

He is also the National Focal Point of the Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Forest for the International Solar Alliance which works in promoting solar energy all over the world.



Parween Beebee Rojoa

Analyst at the Prime Minister's Office in Mauritius

Parween Beebee Rojoa has more than 17 years of experience in the Government Service and an educational background in Economics and International Trade. She has worked at the Ministry of Finance and the former Ministry of Economic Planning and Development. With an enriching experience in planning, budgeting, financial management and policy formulation. She has closely worked with the Utility sector and has assisted in policy formulation in the fields of water, energy and sanitation and she also assisted in monitoring the implementation of capital projects like construction of dams, wastewater infrastructure and energy projects. Currently she is attached in a new Department under the Prime Minister's Office which is driving the formulation of the country's national vision known as the "Vision 2030 Blueprint" which is expected to be finalized by September 2016. The Vision 2030 has the main objective of moving the Mauritius towards a High Income Country and will be aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.



Agnieszka Romanowicz

Research Programme Officer at European Commission (DG AGRI)

Within the unit of Research and Innovation Agnieszka Romanowicz is responsible for international cooperation. One of the files that she deals is the EU-AU R&I partnership on Food nutrition security and sustainable agriculture. She is also responsible for horizontal issues of soil, land and water. The unit where she works is responsible for part of H2020 calls as well as for the EIP-AGRI (European Innovation Partnership-Sustainable Agriculture). She is hydrologist modeller by training, and she did her PhD on integrated hydrological modelling linking land use change modelling and climate change scenarios.



Monika Rzepecka

Director of European and International Affairs Department at the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education

Monika Rzepecka studied at the Agricultural Academy in Warsaw. After obtaining M.Sc. in Food Technology and Nutrition she worked for Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection where she was responsible, for international cooperation and running Polish Contact Point of the FAO/WHO. In the meantime she obtained M.A. in Political Science. In 2010 Monika started work for the Ministry of Science and Higher Education as a Director of European and International Affairs Department where she has been continued developing her specialization in the area of agriculture, food and Bioeconomy. She is responsible for coordinating the research policy in these fields as the Polish delegate to Standing Committee of Agricultural Research, Program Committee for H2020 Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine, Maritime and Inland Water Research and Bioeconomy and Joint Programming Initiative Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change.



Serban Scriciu

Economic Analyst at the European Commission (DG ENER)

Şerban joined the European Commission, Directorate-General Energy end of 2014 as an economic analyst with a focus on macroeconomics and EU energy-related climate policies, and energy-economy-environment modelling. He is currently managing a project on the macroeconomics of energy and climate policies with an emphasis on innovation and finance. Before joining the EC, he worked mostly in the academic sector, for UK universities (Cambridge, Manchester and Greenwich). He also worked for the United Nations Environment Programme in Paris between 2009 and 2011, where he led a project developing a methodological framework for assessing pro-development climate mitigation and adaptation policies. Şerban has undertaken several research consultancy projects and has published more than 25 articles in respected peer-reviewed journals, has single-authored a book and has written several book chapters and reports.



Bai Bai Sesay

Planning and Budgeting Officer at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security, Sierra Leone

Bai Bai Sesay received his BSc in Education (Economics Option) and MSc in Agricultural Economics. As he is currently tasked with duties that involves policy recommendations, so attending the evidence policy training would help broaden my horizon to keep abreast with international trends and to make useful internal and external comparisons that could be of great benefit to my country.



Evangelia Stamouli

Advisor to the Secretary General of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy on International, Regional and Bilateral Environmental Issues

Evangelia Stamouli has served as an Advisor to the Secretary General of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and since 2011. She was previously officer at the Department of International Relations and European Union Affairs and at the Legal Department (2008- 2010) of the Ministry and served as an advisor to the Cyprus EU Presidency 2012. Ms. Stamouli represented Ministry in many international and regional meetings and conferences such as Rio +20 Conference, COPs and MOPs of MEAs and other multilateral meetings. She is Focal point of significant MEAs like Aarhus Convention and she has been involved in the drafting of implementation and evaluation reports, and legislative proposals concerning environmental issues. Ms Stamouli currently is involved in the internal process for the mapping and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals concerning the environment. She studied political science at the University of Crete and holds a Master's degree in Southeast European Studies from the University of Athens as well as a Master's degree in global environmental governance and sustainable development from Panteion University of Athens.



Mapula Tshangela

 [@MapulaTshangeLM](https://twitter.com/MapulaTshangeLM)

Policy Advisor with the National Department of Environmental Affairs in South Africa

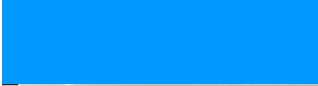
Mapula Tshangela is a Senior Policy Advisor with the National Department of Environmental Affairs in South Africa. She is responsible for promoting the science-policy interface and evidence based policy making, using tools such as the environment sector research, development and evidence framework. Evidence such as from research and stakeholders has a key role to development and implementation of policy. The policies she works with aim to promote sustainable practices however, over the years policies are still challenged to influence the necessary change at scale. Among key milestones, she coordinated the 2010 national green economy summit. Prior to joining the Department in 2007, she worked for ten years at the electricity generation, distribution and head office positions in areas including waste, air quality, sustainability performance, impact assessment, environmental, quality and pollution management systems, water cycle chemistry and laboratory chemical analysis.



Vasiliki Maria Tzatzaki

Legal Advisor in the Cabinet of the Special Secretary for Water of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy

Vasiliki Maria Tzatzaki has been working as a Legal Advisor since 2010. She holds a PhD from the Law Faculty of the University of Athens, published under the title 'Water in Public International Law'. She also holds an LLM from the London School of Economics and Political Science and one from the law Faculty of the University in Athens, both in Public International Law. She has participated in conferences and has published various articles on water law.



Ernst Überreiter

Policy Officer and Water Expert in the Water Directorate of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

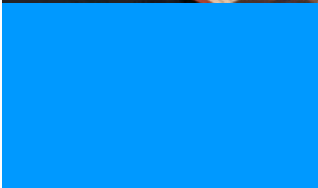
Ernst Überreiter is mainly responsible for the management and coordination of reporting projects under the EU Water legislation, especially the Water Framework Directive, the Floods Directive, the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and issues on climate change as well as water scarcity and droughts. His background is in environmental engineering and water resources management (MSc). He gained a sound knowledge of the water relevant national and international legislation and challenges through his ongoing work for the Ministry as well as in International River Commissions. On national and river basin district level he was involved in drafting River Basin Management Plans and Climate Change Adaptation Strategies.



Adamo Uboldi

Statistical Assistant at the European Commission (DG AGRI)

Adamo Uboldi took his Ph.D. in Mathematical Finance in 2004 at "La Sapienza" University, Rome, Italy. After some years teaching and doing research in Academia, he joined the European Commission in Joint Research Centre in 2006 and then in DG AGRI since 2011. He currently belongs to the modeling unit (Agricultural Modeling and Outlook) in DG AGRI, the unit taking care about quantitative analysis of the Common Agricultural Policy and producing Short and Medium Term Forecasts. Where he deals with financial markets and agricultural commodities, analyzing the presence of distortions among spot, futures and options prices for food commodities. Indeed, the so called "financialization" of soft commodities was indicated as one of the causes triggering the food prices boom registered in recent years.





Caroline Whelan

Scientific Officer at Science Europe

Caroline Whelan studied a BSc degree in Analytical Science followed by a PhD in Physical Chemistry at Dublin City University in Ireland. She then spent time in Belgium and Germany as a post doctorate researcher using ultrahigh vacuum analysis techniques and large scale synchrotron light facilities around Europe to study surface phenomena. I moved from the university environment to application driven research at IMEC in Belgium, a Research and development laboratory for nanoelectronics. Coordination of a Framework Program project led me to spend more time on project management. As a Science Officer, she managed projects on a diverse range of topics within the domain of Materials, physics and nanosciences, supported a committee of external experts and liaisons from 36 countries and organized the assessment project proposals. Most recently, she works in the Research Affairs team as a Senior Scientific Officer at Science Europe, an association of European Research.



Marcin Wolski

Head of the EURAC Institute for Applied Remote Sensing

Marc Zebisch is specialized in monitoring and modelling environmental dynamics and the consequences of global change in mountain regions by means of remote sensing, GIS and computer models as well as in assessing the vulnerability towards climate change with interdisciplinary approaches. He has been involved in more than 20 international and regional projects. Many of them where consulting national and international Institutions such as EEA (European Environment Agency), Environment Agency of Germany and Austria, German Agency for International Cooperation. Marc Zebisch holds a master in Geoecology and a PHD in natural science. His thesis was on modelling the impact of land-use change on biodiversity.



Belay Yawez

Regional land expert at United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

Belay Demissie Yazew, holds a PHD degree in Agricultural Economics and has over 25 years of work experience in different institutions including as head, Agriculture and Natural Resources Bureau of Amhara region (Ethiopia); Senior agriculture policy advisor for USAID/Ethiopia (Ethiopia) managing agriculture and land administration programmes; Value chain development and capacity building manager for MEDA (INGO- Ethiopia); Senior policy advisor for SNV Ethiopia (Int. NGO); Senior Director for Value Chains at Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) and as Economic Affairs Officer-Regional Land Expert- at UNECA-RITD- Land policy Initiative (LPI) responsible for land governance issues for Eastern African countries and two Regional Economic Communities (IGAD and EAC).



Xin Yue

Mobile sources pollution control at the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences

More than 20 years of experiences in vehicle emission control and atmospheric chemistry. Major contributor to China's mobile sources fuel quality management, setting up environmental protection standards for vehicle gasoline and diesel, carrying out fuel quality survey across the country, supervising fuel quality in Beijing since 2008 and accelerating China's fuel quality upgrade progress. Leading scientist and promoter in China's evaporative emission control from vehicles

Science



Ahmed Youssef Sayed Abdelkhalek

[@ayabdelkhalek](#)

Head of Water Resources Management & Planning Department - Water Resources Research Institute (WRRI), National Water Research Center (NWRC), Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation in Egypt.

Ahmed Youssef Abdelkhalek, MSc from K.U. Leuven in 2004 in water resources engineering; PhD in 2011 from V.U.B. Brussels, has been conducting multi-disciplinary research and consultation services in the field of water resources in Egypt, Middle East and Africa. He addresses the critical national and regional issues concerning water resources management; and provides comprehensive resolutions to address the current need for environmentally, and economically effective means for water resources management. He is a member of the Arab Water Council, and German-Egyptian Water Cluster and he is also team leader and project manager of flood protection and water harvesting projects mainly in arid and semi-arid regions.



Giorgio Bardizza

[@giorgbar](#)

Scientific Officer at the Institute for Energy, Transport and Climate at the European Commission (DG JRC)

Giorgio Bardizza studied Physics at University of Milano specializing in nanomaterials for energy applications. During his PhD he worked at LIOS – Linz Institute for Organic Solar Cells where he started working with organic photovoltaic devices. He was involved as scientist in the NanoToTouch project where he contributed to the creation of a perfectly operational research lab in nanotechnologies inside the public space of the Museum of Science and Technology in Milano. The research activity of the open-nanolab was focused on the study of nanoporous electrodes for different applications in the energy field ranging from emerging solar cells to super-capacitors. In 2012 he joined the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission working in the Institute for Energy, Transport and Climate.



Violeta Cabello

[@vcabellov](#)

Researcher at the Institute of Environmental Sciences and Technology. Autonomous University of Barcelona

Violeta Cabello's background is on Environmental Sciences and she holds a Msc. in Applied Ecology and another one on Integrated River Basin Management. Her PhD in Human Geography focused on developing a framework for integrated assessment of the implementation of water policies in semi-arid watersheds. For this purpose, she endeavoured in bridging quantitative tools for water accounting based on the concept of societal metabolism and qualitative analysis of public policies and participatory techniques. She recently became a postdoctoral researcher of the project "Moving Towards Adaptive Governance in Complexity: Informing Nexus Security."



Claudia Capitani

 [@ClaudiaCapitan2](#)

Researcher at the University of York in England

Claudia Capitani holds a PhD in Environmental Biology and a specialisation in geographic information systems and remote sensing analysis. Her professional career has developed at the science-policy interface, and encompasses wildlife ecology and protected area management, agricultural and environmental policies impact assessment, community development, sustainable development goals and climate change. She has worked both at local and at large scale, with partners from Academia, Governmental institutions (including European Commission - JRC) and Non-Governmental Organisations. Currently she is a free-lance consultant on sustainable development and she is collaborating with the University of York on the project "Adaptation For Ecosystem Resilience in Africa".



Carla de Carolis

 [@decarolisarla](#)

Research collaborator and Consultant for University, international cooperation agencies, NGO and Private

Carla de Carolis is an International Consultant in the Biomass and Bioenergy Sector for a several public and private international institutions. Her international activities were focused to support the writing, carrying out and management of EU projects relating to the RES Implementation and their innovation technologies, with focus on the biomass and bioenergy sectors. She is also collaborating with private companies which working on the Advanced Biofuel process by Used Cooking Oils, in close collaboration with EWABA (European Waste Advanced Biofuels). Recently, she worked as International Biomass Expert at ADETEF in order to support the Energy Planning for Egypt's Country. She is also member of steering Committee of National Biomass Association. She is Agronomist with PhD in Biomass fields, started her research in LCA of Bioenergy at IFRF - International Flame Research Foundation in Netherlands.



Eduardo de la Peña

 [@edlp78](#)

Researcher at the Institute for Subtropical and Mediterranean Horticulture (IHSM), Spanish Research Council

Eduardo de la Peña has more than 12 years of experience in Agricultural sciences, with a BSc degree in Biology, Postgraduate studies in International Development (University of London), a PhD in Crop Protection (Ghent University) and seven years of postdoctoral experience in different academic institutions. Currently, he is a researcher at the Institute for Subtropical and Mediterranean Horticulture, which belongs to the Spanish Research Council (CSIC), and guest professor in ecology at Ghent University, where he lectures two courses covering theoretical and applied aspects of trophic interactions. He is also coordinating a research project bringing together agronomists, ecologists and SMEs with the main goal of improving fruit production in two regions of Ethiopia and Kenya.



Ibrahima Diedhiou

Lecturer at the National School of Agriculture (ENSA) of the University of Thies in Senegal

Ibrahima Diedhiou holds a PhD in Environmental Sciences obtained at the Institute of Environmental Sciences at the University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar in Senegal. He also obtained a certificate in development oriented research in agriculture issued by the International Centre for Development Oriented Research in Agriculture .From 2002 to date, he coordinated four international research projects on energy and food security and that were financed by EU/AU (2012-2015), RPIECISA (2008-2011), International Atomic Energy Agency (2008-2011) and the National Science Foundation of the United States of America (2002-2007). In addition, in 2010, he served as technical advisor No. 1 to the Ministry of Renewable Energy of Senegal; as such, he actively participated in the development of recent laws in this sector.

Benis Nchine Ego



Principal researcher at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in South Africa



Benis Ego is researcher the group on biodiversity and ecosystems services. She has an MSC in Conservation Biology from University of Cape Town and a PhD in Zoology from the University of Stellenbosch both in South Africa. Before joining CSIR, she worked at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission in Italy where she contributed to various policy implementation tasks on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Her key competencies are in ecosystem services mapping, conservation planning, and restoration ecology with particular interest in generating research outputs on biodiversity and ecosystem services that are relevant for policy makers. She has been involved in several FP7 projects addressing these issues. While at the JRC, she led a study on indicators for mapping ecosystem services and she has published more than 30 scientific articles in reputable journals.

Andrew Eloba-Eboka

Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the School of Engineering of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa



Andrew Eloba-Eboka obtained his Bachelor degrees Honours in Chemical Engineering/Technology from Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka; Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Nigeria and a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He has outstanding track record of research and innovation and has published widely with over 25 publications. He produced ten publications in the course of his doctoral studies. He was an overall best paper awardee in 2013 in Hong Kong at a conference of the World Society for Sustainable Energy Technologies. As facilitator and consultant, has trained over hundred engineers through train the trainer approach in the National Engineering Design and Development Institute, Nigeria. He has experience in teaching and research and has mentored many South African students in Mathematics and Engineering. He has been serving as a Judge in the ESKOM Expo for Young Scientists in South Africa at regional and national levels for the past three years.



Patricia Fasse

Researcher at the Rathenau Instituut

Patricia Faasse has a background in Health Sciences and in Science and Technology Studies. She received her PhD in 1994 at the Science Dynamics Department at the University of Amsterdam. She has a thorough knowledge of long term developments in science, in the dynamics of science & technology, and in the role of science in society. Over 25 years she has been commissioned to write ethnographic histories of various scientific organizations. Recently she was awarded the Boerhaave Biography Prize for her biography of the first female professor in the Netherlands. She has been working at the Rathenau Instituut since 2013. Her work currently focusses on issues related to public research organizations, evidence for policy, stakeholder management, contested science, public controversies, and wicked problems.



Ksenia Gerasimova

Affiliated Lecturer in the Centre of Development Studies and Research Associate in Social and Biological Studies in the University of Cambridge.

Ksenia Gerasimova, BA (Hons), Moscow, MPhil, PhD (Cantab), is Affiliated Lecturer in the Centre of Development Studies and Research Associate in Social and Biological Studies in the University of Cambridge. She teaches two academic courses 'Food, Agriculture and Development' and 'Comparative Environmental Policy' in the Departments of Political Studies and Land Economy. Dr Gerasimova has worked with Population Council, Council of Europe, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, UNRISD (United Nations Research Institute of Social Development), governments and NGOs. Her research interests are management of natural resources, agriculture, the role of science and civil society.



Gabriel Habiaryemye

 [@Habygaby](https://twitter.com/Habygaby)

Director of Research at the University of Lay Adventits of Kigali, Rwanda

Gabriel Habiaryemye holds a Bachelor of Science, Master and PhD in Environmental engineering respectively in 2004; 2008 and 2011. He is currently Director of Research at the University of Lay Adventits of Kigali, Rwanda. He is an external examiner to the University of Rwanda, School of Public Health and an expert in environmental related programs to the Higher Education Council, Republic of Rwanda. Dr. Gabriel has been the head of Department of rural development, Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Studies. Dr Gabriel is the founder and editor in chief of East African Journal of Science and Technology. Since 2013, he initiated the International Conference on Environment, Energy and Development which provides a forum in which policy makers and Scholars explore new approaches to maximize opportunities for supporting transformation towards global sustainability and strengthening partnerships. Dr Gabriel is an affiliate member of Euroscience, a life member of agriculture meteorologists, India, and World Association of Young scientists member.



Sarah Giles

 @SarahLGiles

Policy Adviser at Royal Society, UK

Sarah Giles works as a Policy Adviser at the Royal Society, which is the UK's academy of science. I have a background as a scientific researcher in biological science, with a PhD in animal behaviour and veterinary epidemiology. During the past two years she has worked on both science education policy, assisting in taking forward a large project on our future vision for science and mathematics education in the UK; and also a project on 'resilience to extreme weather', helping with the scoping stages, including research into ecosystem based as well as traditional engineering based approaches to hazard defence.



Ronald Jgagwe

Uganda National Council for Science & Technology

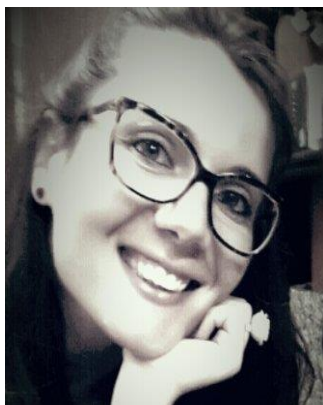
Ronald Jgagwe is a Biological Scientist (BSc/MSc) by training with several certifications in the Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) field. Currently, He is the Head of the STI Research & Development Division at UNCST and a Member of the following STI Technical Working Groups: Framework for the Operationalization of the Development Strategy and Investment Plan Expert Group, Natural Science Programme Committee (UNATCOM/UNESCO), Biosafety/Biosecurity Regulatory Framework for Uganda Expert Group, National Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Team (EU-CBRN Centres of Excellence); and Deputy Coordinator for Uganda (Science Granting Councils' Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa).



Eva Kagiri Kalanzi

Planning Officer in the Finnish University Partnership for International Development

Eva Kagiri is a Senior Planning Officer in UniPID (Finnish University Partnership for International Development), a network of Finnish Universities. She deals with Science, Technology and Innovation cooperation between Finland, Europe and Africa. Strategic to her role is the support of research cooperation between Finnish Institutions and their counterparts in Europe and Africa and bridging the gap between researchers and policy makers. Prior to UniPID, she worked in the private sector on ICT4D projects. She continues to be involved in such projects relating to Agriculture, Environment and Education. She is also an entrepreneur, visiting lecturer in Aalto University, and serves as a board member in different organizations focusing on Environmental and Social Sustainability. Eva studied Environmental Engineering and holds a Master of Environmental Science, International Development and Cooperation.



Maria Valentina Lasorella

 [@LasorellaM](https://twitter.com/LasorellaM)

Researcher at the Italian Council for Agricultural Research and Agricultural Economics Analysis (CREA)

Maria Valentina Lasorella holds a PhD in Agriculture, Food and Environment with a focus on the assessment of energy crops in Mediterranean Areas at Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies in Pisa. During PhD, she was visiting researcher at Wageningen University Research Centre in The Netherlands and at the Rothamsted Institute in UK working on the economics and sustainability production of perennial crops in Europe. From 2013 she joined the National Institute for economic agriculture in Padova where she was involved in a 7FP ENVIEVAL in the development of methodologies for the assessment of environmental impacts of the Rural Development Program (RDPs) in the EU and as expert on National Energy Policies with a particular focus on bioenergy. Actually She is a researcher at CREA-PB in Bologna, working in the fields of projects design and evaluation of RDPs and in the technical assistance for the National Rural Network.



Jurgita Lekaviciute-Gadal

 [@jurgitalek](https://twitter.com/jurgitalek)

Scientific Officer in the French National Institute for Agricultural Research

PhD in Biomedicine, Ecology and Environmental Sciences. For more than 6 years she has been working within international teams in France, Italy and Germany, in conducting and managing research on environment related issues, as well as working on science and policy interface and providing technical support to European and international projects. Currently she is working as a Scientific Officer in a Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food security and Climate Change in the French National Institute for Agricultural Research. Her main tasks are to elaborate the FACCE-JPI Valorisation Strategy "Science for Policy and Impact: Valorisation of FACCE-JPI results" and to implement it.



Davide Magagna

 [@davidewaves](https://twitter.com/davidewaves)

Scientific officer at the European Commission (DG JRC)

Davide Magagna has obtained his in Ocean Energy Ph.D. from the University of Southampton in 2011, since then he has been working at the interface between policy and science in the field of renewable energy, covering the technological, the environmental and socio-economic aspects of low-carbon energy development in the EU. Currently, Davide is employed as a scientific officer at the Joint Research Centre – Directorate for Energy Transport and climate. The main focus of his work is the techno-economic assessment of ocean energy technologies (mainly wave and tidal energy) and of offshore wind energy. During his experience at the JRC, Davide has undertaken numerous research activities, from assessing the innovation landscape of ocean energy to the evaluation of the economic impacts of wind energy in the EU. Davide has a broad experience of engaging with different groups of stakeholders in the Water-Energy-Food nexus. In his previous experiences he has collaborated with the Pollution Research Group of the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the eThekweni Municipality in South Africa working on water and sanitation projects in rural areas.

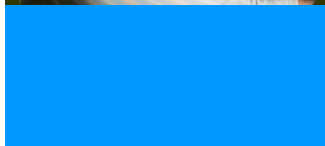


Richard Meissner

 @pulsecubed

Researcher at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in Pretoria, South Africa

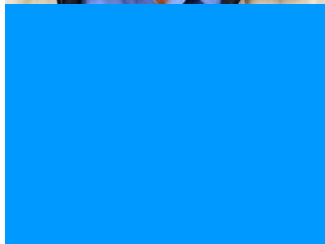
Richard Meissner is a Senior Researcher, and he is responsible for managing medium-sized research project of around R1.5 million per annum. He is currently managing a research project entitled *Towards Improved Water Security for Greater Social and Economic Development*. The project's purpose is to investigate stakeholders' views and perceptions of water security in the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality and the Greater Sekhukhune District Municipality.



Solomon Habtu Mesgina

Associate Professor at Researcher and Associate Professor at Mekelle University in Ethiopia

Solomon Habtu Mesgina studied his undergraduate education in Agricultural Engineering from September 1987 to July 1990 in the then Alemaya Agricultural University, Ethiopia. He went to, the Netherlands, for his second degree in Irrigation Science from and continued his tertiary degree on Irrigation Management in Japan. In line with his studies, he has served as a rural technology expert in Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture, as irrigation and water supply expert in a local NGO in Ethiopia and as an academic and research staff member in Mekelle University of Ethiopia. Concurrently, he has been involved in various applied research projects and community services. One of these is his recent engagement as a country coordinator and researcher in EAU4FOOD research project with Transdisciplinary approach from identifying production limiting factors to best performing innovations.

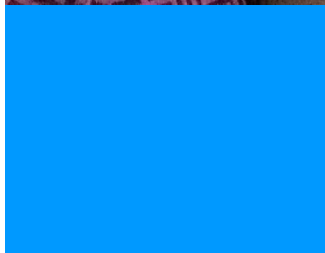


Wezi Mkwaila

 @begoh3

Lecturer in Plant Breeding and Seed Systems at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources in Malawi

Wezi Mkwaila received her MSc in Biology from University of Malawi and her Ph.D. in Plant Breeding Genetics and Biotechnology from Michigan State University USA. She has spent twelve years as a faculty member at in the Department of Horticulture at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) as Lecturer and Senior Lecturer of various courses. Her current research encompasses investigation into crop mechanisms in coping with both biotic and abiotic stresses. She is also involved in interdisciplinary research on the intersection between agriculture, irrigation and health in an 800 ha Bwanje Valley Irrigation Scheme in Malawi. She has served as Chair of the Rapid Response Team of the Malawi Biotechnology Forum since 2014 and Program Officer for Malawi under the African Union NEPAD African Biosafety Network of Expertise since August 2013.





David Mkwambisi

 @Mkwambisi

Programmes Coordinator at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources in Malawi

David Dalison Mkwambisi is an Associate Professor of Environmental Sustainability but currently working as Programmes Coordinator at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources in Malawi. He has a PhD and MSc in Environment and Development from University of Leeds and University of East Anglia in United Kingdom respectively and a BSc in Agriculture from University of Malawi. David is an active faculty member involved in several development and research programmes in his native country Malawi working with rural and urban communities. His research interests are on climate change and smallholder farmers, rural-urban migration and environment, soil nutrients and waste recycling. He is a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on Agriculture and Climate Change. He has carried out several research programmes providing technical and policy recommendations to national and international agencies including World Bank, UNICEF, UNDP, UN Habitat, Malawi Government and several Non-Governmental Organisations.



Jan Marco Mueller

Scientific Advisor at the Secretariat of the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism (DG RTD)

Following his PhD in Geography from the University of Marburg (Germany) in the year 2000, Jan Marco Müller's career included assignments as Assistant to the Scientific CEO of the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research in Leipzig (Germany), Research Programme and Communications Manager of the JRC Institute for Environment and Sustainability in Ispra (Italy), and Head of Business Development & Public Relations of the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology in Wallingford (UK). During these years he also served as Secretary of the Partnership for European Environmental Research, the network of Europe's largest environmental research centres. In 2009 he broadened his experience at the science-policy interface by becoming the Assistant to the Director-General of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in Brussels until 2012, when he was asked to join the recently appointed Chief Scientific Adviser to the President of the European Commission. He works since January 2016 for the Secretariat of the European Commission's new Scientific Advice Mechanism.



Monipher Patience Musasa

Environmental Officer at the Environmental Affairs Department, Government of Malawi

Monipher Patience Musasa has over 5 years' experience working with Government of Malawi on biodiversity management looking at how biodiversity conservation contributes to human well-being at country level. Over the years, she has coordinated biodiversity conservation programs and activities both at national and community level. Her recent work is on finding synergies for conservation and sustainable development including the water-energy-food security nexus. She is currently pursuing an MPhil in Conservation Leadership at University of Cambridge.



Sally Musungu

Graduate Faculty Assistant at University of Nairobi in Kenya

Sally Maureen Musungu is an early career scientist and Agronomist from Kenya. She graduated in 2015 from University of Warwick, United Kingdom specializing in Agronomy. She worked with Rothamsted Research Institute, doing her master's thesis which focused on integrated pest management in banana crop. She is a recipient of commonwealth scholarship award, University of Warwick departmental award and Africa Land and Food Fellowship award. Previously, she worked as an agricultural researcher with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Kenya Forestry Research Institute and Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Institute. Following her master's degree, she took up a tutorial position with University of Nairobi. She is also a mentor with Forum for African Women Educationalist. Her current research interests include: climate change, water-energy- food nexus, and agronomy.

 [@imasikunyambe](https://twitter.com/imasikunyambe)



Imasiku Anayawa Nyambe

Professor of geology at the University of Zambia

Imasiku Anayawa Nyambe is a Professor of geology at the University of Zambia. He has a Ph.D in earth sciences (sedimentology) 1993, an M.Sc in geology (hydrogeology /sedimentology) 1989 from Canada and B. Min. Sciences (geology) 1982 from the University of Zambia. Prof. Nyambe has worked in the copper mining industry in Zambia (1982-1986) before joining the University of Zambia (UNZA) where he has over 25 years' experience as a geo-scientist undertaking research in the areas of geology, hydrogeology, environment and mining, Integrated Water Resources Management, and basic Remote Sensing and GIS. Prof. Nyambe is currently the Director of the Directorate of Research and Graduate Studies, UNZA, responsible for research and postgraduate studies at the UNZA as well as the Coordinator, the UNZA IWRM Centre. On Public Service, he is the Coordinator of Zambia Water Partnership – the Zambian Chapter of the Global Water Partnership and the Chairperson for Zambia Water Forum and Exhibition.



Nembangia Justin Okolle

Researcher at the Agricultural Research for Development in Cameroon

Justin Okolle is a Cameroonian and had his B.Sc and M.Sc from the University of Buea, Cameroon. From here, he worked as a Biology teacher in Christ the King College, Tiko, Cameroon and then with the aid of a Common Wealth Scholarship obtained a PhD (Applied Entomology) from the Universiti Sains Malaysia in 2007. From here, he has been working full time as a Research Officer for the Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD) Cameroon, the African Research Center on Bananas & Plantains (CARBAP) and part-time lecturer at the University of Buea. Okolle is currently the coordinator of the CORAF/WECARD sponsored Traditional African Vegetable Project and Focal Scientist for the German-sponsored Programme for Accompanying Research in Agricultural Innovations in Cameroon. This event will be a great opportunity for him to share/learn experiences on how scientific evidences can help in the formulation of global/national policies that will enhance effective decision-making in the Water-Energy-Food nexus.



Olanrewaju Olujimi

 [@olanrewajuoluj5](https://twitter.com/olanrewajuoluj5)

Lecturer in the Department of Environmental Management and Toxicology, College of Environmental Resources Management, Federal University of Agriculture, Nigeria

Olanrewaju Olujimi has Bachelor degree in Environmental Management and Toxicology from the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Master's degree in Environmental Sciences from The University of Nottingham, Nottingham, United Kingdom and Doctor of Technology (D.Tech) in Environmental Health from Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Cape Town, South Africa. His research interest is basically on emerging endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) in different environmental matrices, pollution monitoring and control, health risk assessment, greenhouse gases removal and synthesis of nanoporous materials from waste materials.



Justina Adwoa Onumah

 [@justnumah](https://twitter.com/justnumah)

Research Scientist at the Science and Technology Policy Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Ghana

Justina Adwoa Onumah holds a Master of Philosophy Degree (MPhil) in Agricultural Economics from the University of Ghana. Her research is in the areas of agricultural policies, research uptake, technology transfer, agricultural productivity and value chains analysis. Aside her core responsibilities, she organises public policy engagements where research findings are shared to the policy making bodies, through policy symposia, policy briefs and advocacy. In 2014 she became part of a team of researchers working on a project termed *Development Research Uptake in Sub Saharan Africa* (DRUSSA) funded by DFID with support from ACU. The project basically aims at promoting research uptake by policymakers.



Liliana Pasecinic

Head of Sector of International relations at the European Commission (DG JRC)

Liliana Pasecinic is Head of Sector of International relations in the Joint Research Centre (JRC), where she coordinates the JRC's collaboration with international partners. PhD in economics and Master of Arts in Philology, she has been working for over 20 years in international relations and diplomacy.



Anthony Phiri

Director at Harare Institute of Technology in the Center for environmental management, Renewable Energy and Climate change

Anthony Phiri is an accomplished Chemical Engineer cum Civil Engineer (Environmental and Climate Management). He holds a doctorate degree in Environmental engineering and has experience in engineering and waste management which spans over 20 years. Dr. Phiri has worked for CSIR (South Africa) as an environmental Scientist and is credited with various works and solutions in South Africa. He also led Bazisa Waste Solutions P/L in the various projects he did in South Africa.



Harrison Pienaar

Competence Area Manager, Natural Resources at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa

Harrison Pienaar's career spans twenty years and commenced in the energy sector with Eskom involving a wide range of environmental management related projects for sustainable linear development. He subsequently represented SA Energy sector on the SADC-affiliated South African Power Pool Environmental Subcommittee. Dr. Pienaar further pursued his career as a consultant, focusing on large scale water and environmental management related projects. He facilitated the establishment and implementation of water related cooperation and partnership programs with SADC countries including water ministries. He previously served as a South African Commissioner on two transboundary water management institutions namely the Orange-Senqu River Commission and the Limpopo Water Course Commission. He is currently an advisory council member of the Water Institute of Southern Africa and the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity.



Ronald Piers de Raveschoot

Technical Project Officer at the European Commission (DG JRC)

Ronald Piers de Raveschoot is a civil mechanical engineer with a MSc diploma in Environmental Management. After several years as an engineer in energy-related industries, he went to Rwanda for a Belgian NGO for a one-year assignment in a cooperation-for-development project related to nutrition and agriculture. Afterwards he moved to the public sector, first in the Brussels Capital Region administration for environment and energy where he headed the energy sub-division. In 2009, he was hired by Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. Within the JRC, he has been working in Ispra providing scientific support to the Covenant of Mayors initiative, aiming at encouraging European cities to commit voluntarily to reduce their CO2 emissions by at least 20% by 2020, through the implementation of a Sustainable Energy Action Plan. In 2012 he moved to the JRC site in Petten where he provides scientific support to the Environmental Technology Verification pilot programme.



Alberto Pistocchi

Project manager and quantitative policy analyst at the European Commission (DG JRC)

Alberto Pistocchi has a Master in Philosophy, a Master in Environmental Engineering and Land Planning and a PhD in Georesources engineering and Geotechnologies. He is an associate professor of Land Planning, a chartered civil and environmental engineer. He has been one of the founders of GECOsistema srl, Italy, an SME providing solutions for spatial decision support systems in the field of environmental assessment. He has been the coordinator of flood protection and land management plans for the regional river basins of Emilia Romagna, Italy, and a consultant in water engineering, environmental assessment and land planning, before joining the European Commission's DG Joint Research Centre where he presently serves as a project manager and quantitative policy analyst on integrated water resources management.



Niina Pitkänen

 [@niinapitkanen](https://twitter.com/niinapitkanen)

Communications Officer at the Natural Resources Institute Finland

Niina Pitkänen is a Master of Arts from the University of Turku, Finland. Her professional background is in journalism and for two years, she edited a scientific supplement to the nation-wide newspaper *Maaseudun Tulevaisuus*. At the same time, working for the research institute, she prepared press releases and coordinated research reports in the organisation's publication series. Since the beginning of 2015 she has worked as a communications officer, mostly involved in research projects and coordination and support actions whose aim is to provide research-based information as the basis of policy making in both Europe and Africa. She is also advising research scientists to better include end-user communication in their research proposals. She is currently working in three H2020-funded projects.



Suzi Richer

 [@EnviroSuzi](https://twitter.com/EnviroSuzi)

Research Associate at the University of York, England

Suzi Richer is a PhD and research in archaeological science and palaeoecology, and she also has a background within the communications industry. As such, she is currently working with an interdisciplinary consortium of researchers from a Russell Group university with world-leading expertise in sustainability science and ecosystem services with the aim of establishing if evidence from the past, in particular archaeological and palaeoecological evidence, can be used to inform policy in areas such as sustainable development and agricultural resilience in East Africa; and if it can be used, what type and format of data is most useful in the policy-making arena.



Dalia Saad

 @DaliaMSaad

Researcher at the Institute for Gender Studies at University of South Africa

Dalia Saad is an environmental chemist, water scientist and strong believer in gender equity in both scientific research and scientific community. Her research focus on water pollution issues and promoting access to clean healthy water as well as gender mainstreaming in water research/management. She obtained her MSc in 2011 and PhD in 2013 in Environmental Chemistry from Wits University (South Africa). Prior to that Dalia worked as a teaching assistant at Khartoum University (Sudan) where she obtained her basic degree in Chemistry in 2006. After working in the technical aspects of water/wastewater problems for some years, Dalia realized that her contribution to science/knowledge will always be irrelevant unless she tries to understand science in the context of societal issues. Having this understanding, she decided to shift from the pure technical work to more interactive type of research by addressing the water challenges/problems in a different way, combining the insight of social science and applied science, which can provoke deeper insights into more effective, long-term, and sustainable solutions. To this end, she has recently joined the institute for Gender Studies at University of South Africa to initiate a research project addressing the gender dimensions of water management.



Maurizio Sajevo

Scientific Liaison Officer at Natural Resources Institute Finland

Focused on governance for systems' sustainability through social learning, futures research and scenario building, interfacing science, policy and society, and through evaluation of uncertainty of scientific knowledge. Mario Sajevo works at Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) as a Scientific Liaison Officer for international cooperation into scientific networks and the setting up of European Strategic Research Agendas. He is also involved in the Bureau of the Africa-EU High Level Policy Dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation in collaboration with CAAST-Net Plus, RINEA, PROIntensAfrica, PAEPARD and ERAfrica. He is involved in the PROIntensAfrica Initiative (Building a Research and Innovation Partnership Programme between Europe and Africa on Sustainable Intensification of Agro-food Systems) and has participated to the Sustainable food production and consumption ERA- net. He has been previously employed (2003-2008) as a Scientific Officer at the DG Joint Research Centre.



Serenella Sala

Scientific officer at the European Commission (DG JRC)

Serenella Sala holds a PhD in Applied Ecology. She is a scientific officer at the JRC since 2010. She is currently working at the Directorate D: Sustainable resources, Bioeconomy Unit. Her research activities were always related to the emerging discipline called "sustainability science". She developed methods and tools for sustainable development, dealing mainly with Sustainable production and consumption patterns, Eco-innovation of process and products, Resource efficiency, Circular Economy. She is an expert in Life Cycle Assessment and its application in decision support.



Jerome Sebadduka Lugumira

Natural Resources Manager at the National Environment Management Authority in Uganda

Jerome Sebadduka Lugumira works as the Natural Resources Manager (Soils and Land Use) in the National Environment Management Authority in Uganda. His primary work is to ensure the integration of sound soils and land use management strategies in national and sub-national policies and plans. In doing this work, he interfaces with government ministries, departments, and institutions, donor agencies, and private entities, with interest in land management issues and the wise use of the soil resource. Put simply, Jerome is at the hub of the advisory machinery of Government on matters of soils and land use. Currently, he is working towards production of the first landslide-risk map for hilly and mountainous areas in Uganda. Jerome is also a researcher.

 [@habtu1976](https://twitter.com/habtu1976)



Habitu Taddese

Assistant professor at Hawassa University in Ethiopia

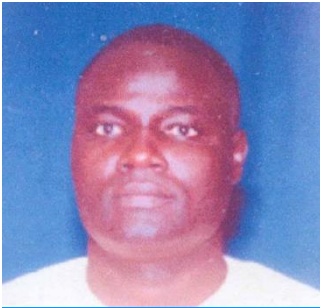
Habitu Taddese had studied BSc degree in Forestry before he pursued his study of Master of Science in Geo-Information in 2008. After graduating in 2010, Habitu has been working at lecturer and assistant professor positions in the School of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies at Hawassa University, Ethiopia. He is now involved in teaching, research and community service activities. In addition, he has provided several trainings to staffs of government and non-government organizations. Academically, he published five scientific publications in reputable journals. He has also won a research fellowship position in the CIRCLE (Climate Impact Research and Capacity Enhancement) program, which is coordinated by the African Academy of Sciences. Currently, he is interested in doing research in the fields related to climate change, resource assessment and monitoring, renewable energy, urban planning and watershed management.



Molibeli Taele

Associate Professor at the National University of Lesotho

Molibeli Taele is an associate Professor of Applied Physics at the National University of Lesotho. He obtained his PhD in Physics in 2000 from University of Lancaster, UK. He was the lead coordinating author of the Lesotho Second National Communication to the UNFCCC (2013). He has carried out major national consultancies on climate change mitigation, in 2010 and sustainable energy development initiatives, in 2015. He sits on national advisory bodies focusing on energy and climate change. In 2014, he was appointed member of board of directors of the Lesotho Electricity Company and chairperson of electrification, enterprise and environment of the board committee. In 2013, he was elected Energy Globe Foundation Ambassador by the Austria-based Energy Globe Foundation. He has participated in the development of the draft national STI policy, energy policy and draft renewable energy policy. In 2006 he was awarded National Science Prize for his active role in the promotion of Science and Technology.



Dieng Tainor Meïsa

Project Officer at the African Network Basin Organization

Dieng Tanor Meïssa holds a Master's Degree in Economic Policy and Management and a DESS (Advanced Specialized Diploma) in Environmental Management and Protection in Sahel region. He is also an Agronomist with specialization in Rural Economy. Since 2012, he is working with the African Network Basin Organization through SITWA Project. He has managed the process to formulate the ANBO 10-year strategy with a clear vision, mission and a 5-year action plan. Before reaching it, he worked as the expert in monitoring and evaluation for a project which aimed to protect and restore the degraded lands in the groundnut basin (2007-2012) in Senegal. Between 2004 and 2007, he worked as an expert in monitoring for the agroforestry project of Diourbel, in Senegal. Finally, he worked as technical expert for the project of Small and Medium Agricultural Enterprises in the Niayes region, Senegal (1999 to 2004).



Elena Tarnavsky

Research Fellow in the Department of Meteorology at the University of Reading and an Impact and Innovation Team member with the NERC National Centre for Earth Observation

Elena Tarnavsky has worked on projects ranging from acquisition of high-resolution aerial imagery to land cover change analyses, dryland hydrology, and monitoring of drought for famine early warning. Dr Tarnavsky's current research focuses on operational assessment of agro-meteorological risks to crop production that directly supports decision-makers in the humanitarian, non-profit, and private sectors. Her work investigates trade-offs between multi-source EO data on rainfall, vegetation, temperature, and soil moisture, and the incorporation of these into decision-support tools and weather index-based insurance structures for smallholder farmers in developing countries in Africa and globally. Dr Tarnavsky received her PhD in Geography from King's College London, and holds an MA in Geography from San Diego State University and a BSc in Environmental Sciences & Natural Resources from the University of Minnesota.



Martin Todd

Professor of Climate Change at the University of Sussex UK. Director of the Climate and Society Research Group

Martin Todd is a climate scientist with almost 25 years' experience in understanding the processes driving climate variability and change over Africa and their impacts on water resources. This includes both surface water and groundwater, a particularly neglected and poorly understood resource in Africa. He has been Co/Principal Investigator on numerous international projects on climate and water, spanning West, East and Southern Africa. His work includes both fundamental science and applications in water and climate risk management. Notably, three ongoing projects: The Future Climate for Africa UMFULA project; GroFuture; the Science for Humanitarian Emergencies and Resilience (SHEAR). These projects involve partnerships with a wide array of African research institutions, stakeholders in civil society, NGOs and government ministries and agencies. He co-authored the *African Climate Report* presented to the G8 summit in 2005.



Martha van Eerdt

Project leader and senior Researcher at the PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency

Martha van Eerdt has been working at the science-policy interface in the field of national and European policies on agriculture and environment which include water and food policies. For 2 years now she manages a project on the governance of food systems in Sub-Saharan Africa. In 2014, she was co-author of the food chapter in a CBD publication on mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into economic sectors. The analysis was based on three model-based, back-casting scenarios that meet a range of long term sustainability objectives. From 1980-2002 she worked as an environmental scientist for the University of Utrecht, the Ministry of Water and Public Works and Netherlands Statistics. She was a member of several European taskforces on the compilation of environmental statistics and she prepared the publication of the first Environmental Compendium for the UN-Economic Commission of Europe.



Name Davy Vanham

Title Technical Project Officer at the European Commission (DG JRC)

Davy Vanham holds a MSc in applied agricultural sciences from the University of Leuven and a MSc in water resources engineering from the University of Brussels. He obtained a PhD from the University of Innsbruck in integrated water resources management. Davy has more than 15 years of working experience in IWRM, both in the private sector and the public sector, of which many years abroad. This includes several years of professional experience in developing/transition countries. Since 2011, he works as a researcher on IWRM in the EU, at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission in Ispra, Italy. His research focuses on the interdisciplinary management of water resources and its uses, in order to find sustainable solutions to the world's water related challenges. His interest extends to the communication of science to policy as well as the general public.



Mari Vaughn Johnson

Co-chair of the Global Young Academy (GYA)

Mari-Vaughn Johnson is an early-career systems-oriented scientist with demonstrated interest in international collaboration and promotion of scientific-based decision making. As a member of the GYA, she is committed to helping raise the voice of young scientists from around the world, so that we may all contribute to inclusive, scientifically grounded decision making to the benefit of society and the natural environment. Over her career, Dr. Johnson has worked with diverse collaborators to develop sustainable solutions to mounting natural resource challenges at local, national, and transnational scales. She has been directly involved in numerous cross-cultural knowledge sharing activities, including development of mobile apps to help with agricultural land use decision making across Africa, cook-stoves workshops across Southeast Asia, and bilateral and multilateral discussions over river management in Southeast Asia and North America.



Marc Zebisch

Head of the EURAC Institute for Applied Remote Sensing

Marc Zebisch is specialized in monitoring and modelling environmental dynamics and the consequences of global change in mountain regions by means of remote sensing, GIS and computer models as well as in assessing the vulnerability towards climate change with interdisciplinary approaches. He has been involved in more than 20 international and regional projects. Many of them were consulting national and international Institutions such as EEA (European Environment Agency), Environment Agency of Germany (UBA) and Austria (EAA), German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). For GIZ he was conducting climate change vulnerability assessment in Pakistani and Bolivian mountains. Marc Zebisch holds a master in Geoecology and a PHD in natural science. His thesis was on modelling the impact of land-use change on biodiversity.



Elisabetta Zerazion

PhD student at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia of Department of Sciences and Methods for Engineering

Prior to beginning the PhD program, Elisabetta Zerazion has worked as researcher on environmental impact assessment in general and more exactly on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodology. Her work was concerned with developing and integrating innovative indicators/elements to be introduced in LCA framework, applying this to different case studies and fields. Her doctoral research project is focused on the integration of Life Thinking approach, considering the three dimensions of sustainability (environmental, social and economic). The case of study is a project of international cooperation, which aims to improve the small case mining activities in Colombia reducing their environmental impacts. In addition to pursuing her PhD, she has also attended different trainings completing her background in order to improve her understanding of social, economic issues especially in Developing Countries. According to her these aspects should be integrated into conventional assessments, which already consider the environmental and technological aspects.



Leocadia Zhou

Project Director of Risk and Vulnerability Science Centre at the Faculty of Science & Agriculture, University of Fort Hare in South Africa

Leocadia Zhou is the Project Director of Risk and Vulnerability Science Centre (RVSC), the RVSC is advantageously placed in one of the poorest province in South Africa. The RVSC's mandate is to generate and distribute knowledge, and policy proposals through rigorous research for lasting solutions to pressing economic developing challenges of risks and vulnerability related to climate change in the Eastern Cape Province. The main objective is to strengthen local and provincial intervention programmes through evidence based policy initiatives. Against this background, she has been involved in various community research projects and research-uptake platforms on climate change risk and vulnerability on food security and water security at local and national level. Dr Zhou serves as a national Technical Resource Team advisor for the South Africa Vulnerability Assessment Committee on food and nutrition security. Dr Zhou is also actively involved as project steering committee member for the Eastern Cape Anti-Poverty Food security Strategy. She is the coordinator for the UK-AID funded programme on Climate Impact Research Capacity Leadership Enhancement (CIRCLE) programme at the University of Fort Hare.



Thobekile Zikhali

 [@thobezik](https://twitter.com/thobezik)

Researcher thee Human Sciences Research Council in Pretoria, South Africa

Thobekile Zikhali is a Researcher in the Democracy, Governance and Service Delivery Programme at the Human Sciences Research Council in Pretoria, South Africa. Thobekile is also a PhD Candidate in the Department of Political Studies at the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. Her PhD work broadly focuses on Transboundary Water Governance in Southern Africa. Using the Incomati River Basin as a case study, she critically examines what the transboundary water relations of Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland tell us about the nature of power and hegemony in Southern Africa. Thobekile sits at the HSRC Research Ethics Committee and is a member of the South African Qualifications Authority recognised professional bodies; the Water Institute of Southern Africa and the South African Political Studies Association. She is also a Social Science Research Council Next Generation in Africa Research Fellow. Thobekile holds a Master's degree in Political Science with a specialisation in International Relations and Transnational Governance; and a sub major in Environmental Governance from the VU University Amsterdam, Netherlands.



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