



AFRICARENA NAIROBI SUMMIT

AFRICA CLIMATE TECH WEEK SUMMIT GUIDE

3- 4 SEPTEMBER 2024

 www.africarena.com

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WELCOME

Welcome to the seventh live edition of AfricArena Tour, pioneering the fusion of digital and in-person tech experiences across the African continent.

Our summit and ancillary events offer a unique opportunity to delve into current and future tech trends while spotlighting Africa's finest startups and innovators. Spanning five regions, AfricArena has convened renowned figures from global and African tech landscapes, championing excellence in African Tech. Previous editions boasted 700+ attendees, 60+ speakers, and over \$500 million in impactful deals.

The two-day AfricArena Nairobi Summit facilitates connections between 20+ top African startups and 100+ global investors, showcasing the continent's innovation prowess.

Thanks to our esteemed tech ecosystem partners, Nairobi is fast emerging as East Africa's top startup ecosystem hub and gaining a reputation as Africa's Climate Tech capital. At this summit, 20+ founders who are pioneering highly scalable tech startups in Africa will demonstrate Africa's green tech leadership during the pitch tracks.

As we envision a collaborative, pan-African approach to innovation, we're committed to fostering an environment that fosters positive change. This year's Summit promises to offer the ultimate platform to accelerate the growth of African tech startups and ecosystems, underlining Africa's ascent as the beacon of the future. Join us as we shape tomorrow's world together.

WHAT IS AFRICARENA?

AfricArena plays a unique and key role in unifying Tech Startups, Corporations, and Investors.



Strengthen

Strengthening the international traction of Africa's most innovative tech startups.



Connect

Connecting founders with investors and corporations.



Promote

Attracting both entrepreneurs and investors to Africa.



Attract

Promoting the African Tech ecosystem and its opportunities.

Nairobi Tour 2024

Series of Events: Preview



**Founder's Bootcamp
Maasai Lodge**

31 August - 2 September

The AfricArena Nairobi Founder's Bootcamp 2024 accelerates founders' knowledge in key areas overlooked by other programs to prepare startups for the summit.



**Learning Expedition
in Nairobi**

2 September @9am

The AfricArena Nairobi Learning Expedition provides investors and startups with a one-day tour to explore Nairobi's dynamic startup and tech ecosystem.



**AfricArena VC Night | The
Aviary Rooftop Bar, Dusit
Princess Hotel Residences**

2 September @6PM at The Aviary Rooftop Bar Dusit Princess Hotel Residences

The AfricArena VC Night is an informal networking event where startups and investors come together to share ideas for potential investments.



**2-day AfricArena Nairobi
Summit |Shamba Events**

3 - 4 September

The AfricArena Nairobi Summit 2024 will feature 20+ startups from Africa competing in pitch track categories, with winners advancing to the AfricArena Grand Summit in December.



**AfricArena Innovation
Night | Shamba Events**

3 September @6PM at Shamba Events

The 2024 AfricArena Nairobi Summit Innovation Night will host summit attendees for an interactive and lively networking event to connect with tech ecosystem participants in Kenya.

Nairobi Summit AfricArise Founder's Bootcamp

Preceding the AfricArena Summits in various cities across Africa each year, AfricArise offers selected founders a remarkable opportunity to engage with speakers, ecosystem partners, investors, and peers in a concentrated two-day bootcamp focused on their growth.

The Founder's Deal Flow Bootcamp accelerates founders' knowledge in crucial areas often overlooked by other incubation programs, equipping them for future investor interactions, networking, and collaborations. Alongside interactive workshops, founders can also connect with peers and founders from across Africa through a series of events and activities during the bootcamp.

This year, the venue for the AfricArise's ClimateTech Founder's Bootcamp will be at the Maasai Lodge on the border of the Nairobi National Park, where the founders, hosts and speakers will stay for 2 nights.

Check out our 2023 Founders Bootcamp Video for more insights.



Scan the barcode and
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SUBSCRIBE



SCAN ME

Welcome to AfricArena Wired!

This is AfricArena Wired - the African tech ecosystem at the palm of your hand. A reimagined and innovative way of connecting african tech founders, investors, partners, mentors and ecosystem players.



Get Wired!



Lex's Overview

2 September 2024

Objectives of the Learning Expedition

AfricArena & AfricArise provides partners, corporates delegates, and investors the opportunity to explore entrepreneurial and investor scenes. We have designed a mini tour where we cover topics while visiting leading co-working spaces, accelerators, incubators, where key local innovation, speakers will be giving insights into one of Africa's most exciting tech landscapes. This occasion is designed to discover the Nairobi innovation and cultural scene just before the AfricArena Nairobi Summit the following day, on 3rd September. This is an extraordinary opportunity for entrepreneurs alike to gain invaluable insight into the Kenyan ecosystem and its important local innovation players in just one day.

The Learning Expedition is designed to cover key topics such as:

- Corporate Collaboration
- Funding in Nairobi
- An Overview of the Innovation Landscape
- Business in Nairobi & Africa
- Soft-Landing Possibilities

Program for the Nairobi Learning Expedition

9:00 AM - 10:30: **KCIC ([map](#))**.

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Visit of **E3 Capital ([map](#))**.

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM: Lunch

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM: Visit to **Impact Hub Nairobi ([map](#))**.

From 6:00 PM: **VC Night @ The Aviary Rooftop Bar, 8th Floor, Dusit Princess Hotel Residences, Nairobi**

SUMMIT PROGRAM

DAY ONE - TUESDAY 3 September 2024

All times are in EAT (East Africa Time)

9:00

GUESTS ARRIVE AND MINGLE

9:30

MC Welcome and Wake Up

9:40

AfricArena Welcome - Christophe Viarnaud (CEO)

9:45

Intro from Sponsors

10:00

Keynote: Why Africa Matters in the Global Climate Conversation

10:15

Panel Discussion: Next-Gen Renewable Energy: The Impact of AI and Carbon Credits on Sustainability

11:05

Pitch Challenge: Clean- Tech Program

11:55

Panel Discussion: Fintech Sparks Green Finance: Bridging Policy and Investment

12:45

Pitch Challenge: Climatech Program (Korea-Africa Delegation)

13:30

LUNCH & NETWORKING

15:00

Panel Discussion: Future Farming: Integrating Climate-Resilient Crops with Smart Technology

15:40

Pitch Challenge: Agritech Program

16:40

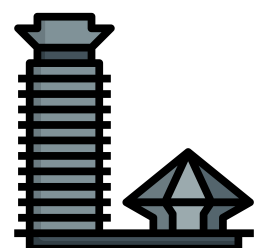
Panel Discussion: Green Tech Funding: Bridging Innovation and Impact

17:30

END OF DAY 1

18:00

INNOVATION NIGHT

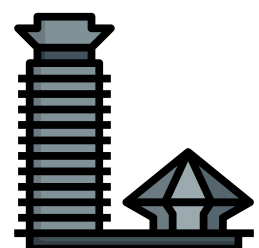


SUMMIT PROGRAM

DAY TWO - WEDNESDAY 4 September 2024

All times are in EAT (East Africa Time)

9:00	GUESTS ARRIVE AND MINGLE
9:30	MC Welcome and Wake Up
9:40	Panel Discussion: The Circular Economy Revolution: Scaling Sustainable Solutions
10:30	Pitch Challenge: Circular Economy Program
11:35	Keynote : Ecosystem Evolution: Building a Resilient Climate Tech Investment Network
11:45	Panel Discussion: Funding the Future: Building a Resilient Investment Ecosystem
11:45	Wired Speed Connect - Matchmaking (Taking place in meeting rooms)
12:35	Pitch Challenge: Reverse Investor Pitch
13:30	AWARDS CEREMONY
14:10	LUNCH & NETWORKING
17:00	END OF SUMMIT





ACCELERATING INNOVATION

From Africa to Europe

Methys is a unique international technology firm with expertise in Digital, Business Intelligence, Private Equity and Acceleration Services. We pride ourselves in consistent innovation and facilitate collaborative engagement between corporate, investors and start-ups. Our footprint reaches across the globe with a presence from Africa to Europe.

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9 | AFRICARENA 2024

CAPE TOWN | STELLENBOSCH | JOHANNESBURG | TUNIS | PARIS | LUXEMBOURG | LONDON



Tonee Ndungu
Entrepreneur | Speaker | Author

Tonee Ndungu is a visionary entrepreneur and the CEO of Kytabu, an EdTech company that leverages AI to make education more accessible across Africa. With extensive experience in fintech, AI, and community building, Tonee is dedicated to driving social impact through technology and innovation. He is also the founder of Tribbe, a fintech startup aimed at fostering financial inclusion among Africa's youth.

JOSHUA ROMISHER
CEO & HEAD OF PORTFOLIO
HOLOCENE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: 'Why Africa Matters in the Global Climate Conversation'
PANELLIST: 'Green Tech Funding: Bridging Innovation and Impact'



Joshua Romisher, is the CEO and Head of Portfolio at Holocene Ventures, a company committed to positively impact the African climate landscape by building a community of mission aligned, climate activists and investing in early-stage climate tech startups. He will give a keynote address titled “Why Africa Matters in the Global Climate Conversation”. Joshua holds a BSc in Economics and International Business from the Pennsylvania State University.

JOSHUA MURIMA
HEAD OF ENGAGEMENT & INVESTOR RELATIONS
BRITERBRIDGES

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
'Ecosystem Evolution: Building a Resilient Climate Tech Investment Network- Briterbridges'



Joshua Murima is the Head of Ecosystem Engagement & Investor Relations at Briter Bridges, a data driven research firm in Nairobi. He works closely with the local community of tech founders, hubs and investors to forge friendships and collaboration in a bid to unlock growth opportunities for entrepreneurs in Africa. He will give a keynote address titled “Ecosystem Evolution: Building a Resilient Climate Tech Investment Network”.

CYNTHIA MWAURA
SENIOR INVESTMENT ANALYST
E3 CAPITAL

MODERATOR :

**Next-Gen Renewable Energy: The Impact of AI and
Carbon Credits on Sustainability**



Cynthia Mwaura is a Senior Investment Analyst at E3 Capital where she is responsible for managing deal flow, deal evaluation and execution, and portfolio management, and is part of the team that closed the first investment under the E3 Low Carbon Economy Fund. She has spent the past 5+ years working with entrepreneurs and investors across Sub-Saharan Africa within the financial services, agriculture, energy, climate-tech, and real-estate sectors. Cynthia is passionate about pioneering, scaling and sustaining tech-driven enterprises across emerging markets. Prior to E3, Cynthia worked at Onafriq (prev. MFS Africa) as an Investment Analyst and Open Capital as an Associate in Management Consulting and Financial Advisory.

VIVIAN OPONDOH
DATA ANALYST

PANELLIST :

**Next-Gen Renewable Energy: The Impact of AI and
Carbon Credits on Sustainability**



Vivian Opondoh is a versatile Data Analyst with a background in Aerospace Engineering, Software Development, Entrepreneurship, and Data Science. She founded Farmula, focusing on automating agricultural supply chains using data, winning the GIZ Women in Agribusiness Agtech Innovation Award in 2021. Vivian's experience includes roles at Health-e-net, Mastercard Foundation Alumni Network, and currently as a Data Analyst at the World Food Programme. She leads LvngDB to reduce food waste and mentors entrepreneurs through the WFP Innovation Champions Community.

ASAD ALI
FELLOW, STAGE CLIMATE-TECH INVESTOR
HOLOCENE



PANELLIST :
Next-Gen Renewable Energy: The Impact of AI and
Carbon Credits on Sustainability

Asad Ali is an early stage climate-tech investor at Holocene, nature enthusiast and former sustainability consultant dedicated to helping climate tech startups unlock their potential.

DIANA MARANGA
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT LEAD
OCTAVIA CARBON



PANELLIST :
Next-Gen Renewable Energy: The Impact of AI and
Carbon Credits on Sustainability

Diana Maranga is the Business Development Lead at Octavia Carbon and heads the commercialisation team. She spearheads customer discovery and acquisition and engages with investors to secure financing for our operations through revenue from carbon credits and investments.

KAMAL DEEN YAKUB
CHIEF VISIONARY OFFICER
TROTRO TRACTOR

PANELLIST :
Next-Gen Renewable Energy: The Impact of AI and Carbon Credits on Sustainability



Kamal-Deen Yakub is a social entrepreneur and a technology enthusiast with 15 years of corporate accounting and marketing experience. He is a hands-on manager with expertise in startups, agtech, fiscal management and financial reporting, and has a proven record of developing and implementing financial and operational controls that improve P&L scenarios and competitively position firms.

CAROLINE KIMANI
CARBON TECHNICAL EXPERT
CLIMATE ACTION PLATFORM FOR AFRICA (CAP-A)

PANELLIST :
Next-Gen Renewable Energy: The Impact of AI and Carbon Credits on Sustainability



Caroline Kimani is a Carbon Technical Expert at CAP-A with experience in carbon development, nature-based solutions, and household efficiency projects. Previously, she worked at Earthbanc and ecoscurities managing land restoration projects and carbon projects in Africa and Asia. Her commitment to advancing sustainable climate solutions stems from her Bachelor of Science in Range Management and a Master of Science in Range Socio Ecology from the University of Nairobi.

JESSICA FRANCISCA COLAÇO
GENERAL PARTNER AT 101 PARTNERS;
CO-FOUNDER AT BRAVE AND IHUB NAIROBI;

MODERATOR :
Fintech Sparks Green Finance: Bridging Policy and Investment Panel



Jessica Francisca Colaço is a dynamic speaker and she has featured on global platforms talking about her work in technology and entrepreneurship. She is an entrepreneur and co-founder of Brave and iHub, computer scientist and C-level executive, musician and public speaker. She is a TED fellow and Harambean. She is currently the first female in tech and music in East Africa to release two music singles NFTs on Open Sea and Rarible. She is a bass Guitarist who has played for various afro-fusion and rock bands in Nairobi and released her EP entitled Metamorphosis in Oct 2022. Jessica was the COO at Mpost (tech) and Director at Vuna Kreative (music). She co-founded Brave (HR tech company) based in the US and UK, and she co-founded the iHub with Erik Hersman in 2010. It was the first tech-hub in Kenya and East Africa.

ONYEKA EKEH
ACTING COO/DIGITAL IMPACT & MARKETING HEAD
BLUESPACE AFRICA TECHNOLOGIES

PANELLIST :
Fintech Sparks Green Finance: Bridging Policy and Investment Panel



Onyeka Ekeh is a product marketing manager and communication strategist with over a decade of corporate experience. Currently the acting COO and Head of Digital Impact at BlueSPACE Financial Cloud, she drives innovative financial solutions and growth initiatives. Relocating to Ghana in 2018, she delved into tech entrepreneurship, excelling in UI design and product management. Onyeka leads digital marketing strategies at BlueSPACE, fostering innovation and sustainability. She supports startups in the tech ecosystem, focusing on effective business growth strategies. Notably, she won the first all-women Startup Weekend in Accra in 2019 and has worked with startups in Accra and Lagos. Passionate about inclusivity, she advocates for diverse representation in the industry.

UGOCHUKWU CHUKWUJIAKA
FOUNDER
ENERGY TALENT COMPANY



PANELLIST :
Fintech Sparks Green Finance: Bridging Policy and Investment Panel

Ugochukwu Chukwujiaka is a Business Executive dedicated to nation-building through scalable education solutions. As the Founder and CEO of Energy Talent Company (ETC), he leads an initiative to recruit, train, and place top solar talents in Africa, starting with Nigeria, Ghana, and Kenya. Ugo's career spans education, technology, and social impact. Previously, he was a Design Manager Consultant at Generation, where he developed a curriculum to connect unemployed youths in the UK with employers, including Hilton Hotels. He also worked with Andela, helping to expand their mission to train Africa's top software developers. Since ETC's inception, the company has trained over 3,000 talents, contributing to over 50 MW of electricity across the region.

KEET VAN ZYL
CO-FOUNDER
KNIFE CAPITAL VENTURES



PANELLIST :
Fintech Sparks Green Finance: Bridging Policy and Investment Panel

Keet has over 20 years of investment experience in private equity, banking and venture capital. He co-founded Knife Capital in 2010 to scale African high-growth businesses globally and worked at industry-leading companies such as Procter & Gamble, Investec Bank and 'Here Be Dragons' (HBD) Venture Capital. Keet is passionate about building the early-stage funding ecosystem in Africa.

KOYA MATSUNO
COO & CO- FOUNDER
VUNAPAY

PANELLIST :
Fintech Sparks Green Finance: Bridging Policy and Investment Panel



Koya Matsuno, Co-Founder and COO at VunaPay, is focused on improving financial access in agriculture, particularly ensuring fair payments to smallholder farmers. He began his career as an investment banker at J.P. Morgan, gaining strong financial experience. His passion for financial inclusion developed during his time at UCLA, where he worked on microfinance projects in Central America and Ghana. At Cookpad, he expanded his skills in data analytics and product development, contributing to international market growth. Later, in Nairobi, he led a crowdfunding platform for off-grid solar panels. Now, Koya applies his diverse experience to advancing VunaPay's mission.

VICTOR NDIEGE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
KENYA CLIMATE VENTURES

MODERATOR :
Green Tech Funding: Bridging Innovation and Impact Panel



Victor Ndiege has 20 years of experience in investments and investment linkages, design, development and management, fundraising, fund management, business modeling and assessments, and public-private partnerships. Prior to joining Kenya Climate Ventures, Victor worked at Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund, KPMG - International Development Advisory Services, providing technical sector expertise, leading investment and portfolio management, enterprise development, and impact monitoring and reporting of renewable energy businesses and climate-smart solutions in Eastern, Western, and Southern Africa and Asia. Victor holds a BSc. in Agricultural Economics from Egerton University and an MBA in Strategic Management from Nairobi University. Victor is a member of the Cleantech Group - 50 to Watch Expert Panel, the Investment Committee of West Africa Brighter Future Fund, and various Boards.

FARES SEIDI
ADVISOR
SCALING DIGITAL AGRICULTURE INNOVATIONS
THROUGH START-UPS (SAIS)
GIZ



PANELLIST:
Green Tech Funding: Bridging Innovation and
Impact Panel

Fares Seidi is an Advisor for Partnerships and Investor Relations at SAIS, focusing on enhancing investor readiness of African startups and fostering responsible connections with investors. He advocates for technology's role in driving economic growth, food security, and income opportunities in Africa, with extensive experience in the African startup ecosystem collaborating with VC funds, incubators, and startup communities.

JACKLYNE IMINZA-ANYAMBA
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
EAST AFRICA PRIVATE EQUITY &
VENTURE CAPITAL ASSOCIATION (EAVCA)



PANELLIST :
Green Tech Funding: Bridging Innovation and
Impact

Jacklyn Iminza-Anyamba is the Chief Operating Officer of the East Africa Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (EAVCA), where she leads the strategic and operational efforts for the organization. EAVCA represents over 100 private capital investors and partners in East Africa. Jacklyn specializes in human and capital mobilization, playing a key role in fostering partnerships and driving significant investments into the region. Her work has been crucial in contributing to East Africa's economic growth. Passionate about using private capital to create positive social and economic impact, she is committed to leveraging the opportunities and addressing the challenges in the region.

NICK QUINTONG
CHIEF COMMERCIAL OFFICER & PORTFOLIO
DIRECTOR
DELTA40 VENTURE STUDIO



PANELLIST :
Green Tech Funding: Bridging Innovation and
Impact

Nick was formerly co-founder and CEO of PayGo Energy, a clean tech / clean cooking company based in Nairobi, Kenya. PayGo developed an innovative hardware solution to tap into the mass market potential for liquified petroleum gas (LPG) in Africa. Nick led PayGo from its inception to an acquisition by Sun King, largest off-grid solar company in Africa. Prior to co-founding PayGo, Nick was a Kiva Fellow in Nairobi and held various commercial roles at General Electric. Currently, Nick is Chief Commercial Officer and a Portfolio Director at Delta40 an early stage VC fund and venture studio.

DAVID LONGDON
SENIOR ASSOCIATE
EQUATOR VC



MODERATOR FOR 'Future Farming: Integrating
Climate-Resilient Crops with Smart Technology'

David is a Senior Associate at Equator VC, a Pan-African climate focused venture capital firm based in Nairobi, Kenya. David brings over a decade of experience in finance and prior to Equator, held various roles at Barclays, including Vice President within Capital Markets. He sits on the Board of Trustees for a U.S. liberal arts college, and in this role, serves on their Investment Committee with a \$450m+ endowment invested across multiple asset classes, including public and private equities. He is an angel investor and advisor to several African startups and recently served as a growth manager with a Nairobi-based seed-stage startup. David holds a B.A. in Economics and French from Bates College and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

MARTHA HAILE
FOUNDER
ABZE

PANELLIST :
Future Farming: Integrating Climate-Resilient
Crops with Smart Technology



Martha Haile, an entrepreneur with a background in agricultural technology, has held key leadership positions in leading agtech startups. For the last decade, she has resided in Kenya and Nigeria, working extensively across Sub-Saharan Africa. Recently, she founded Abze, a digital media company focused on showcasing the narratives, innovations, and pioneers revolutionizing Africa's food industry. Martha, also a co-founder of Hello Tractor and former Vice President of Business Development at Wefarm, is dedicated to utilizing technology to empower small-scale farmers and develop sustainable solutions in the food and agriculture sector. Proudly Eritrean-American, Martha resides in Nairobi with her husband and two daughters.

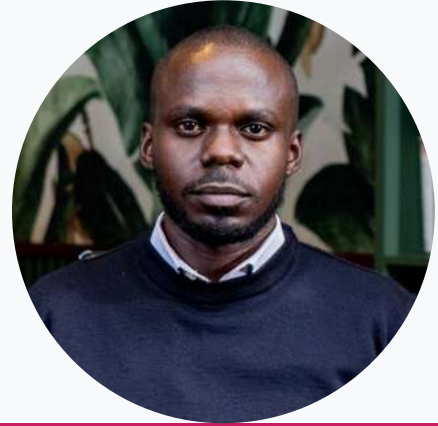
DAMILOLA THOMPSON
CO-FOUNDER & PARTNER
DILIGENCE AFRICA

JUDGE & PANELLIST IN 'Future Farming:
Integrating Climate-Resilient Crops with Smart
Technology'



Damilola Thompson is an investment professional with over 14 years of experience investing, building, and executing strategies for VC funds and tech companies across global markets as a venture capital investor, entrepreneur, and operator. Her core competencies are in driving venture investments, due diligence & compliance solutions, developing and implementing strategic growth & market entry plans, and corporate development for tech and tech-enabled companies. She is the Managing Partner of DiligenceAfrica.co, a platform that provides due diligence services to investors investing in African and Africa-focused opportunities and provides startup advisory services to founders building for or expanding to the African continent through the Fractional CFO Services and Governance and Compliance Services. Dami is passionate about entrepreneurship and, loves to support and train entrepreneurs to build sustainable businesses.

PHILIP ODINO
MANAGING PARTNER
PEPEA CAPITAL



PANELLIST :
Future Farming: Integrating Climate-Resilient
Crops with Smart Technology

Philip Odino is a Resource Mobilization Expert and Organisational Strategy Technical Advisor with extensive experience in supporting entrepreneurial ecosystems in Africa. He is the Managing Partner at Pepea Capital, a fintech company focused on providing digital finance solutions to smallholder farmers. Through its platform, Pepea Capital offers affordable credit, insurance, and digital payment services, promoting financial inclusion and climate-smart agriculture. Philip has worked with a variety of organizations, including DFIs, NGOs, and development partners, and has a background in strategy development, capital raising, and SME ecosystem development. He holds an M.Sc. in Design for Sustainable Development from Chalmers University, Sweden, and has collaborated with organizations like GIZ, UNICEF, and the World Bank throughout his career.

HANGYUL LEE-SONG
DATA LEAD
BRITER BRIDGES



PANELLIST :
Future Farming: Integrating Climate-Resilient
Crops with Smart Technology

Hangyul Lee-Song leads the data development of AgBase, which is the agtech arm of Briter Bridges, managing the collection of agtech ecosystem data across Africa. Hangyul and her team translates the collected data into digestible research and advisory pieces for a diverse range of partners ranging from VC companies, foundations, research institutions and international organisations.

EVA WAWERU
SENIOR ASSOCIATE, COMMUNICATIONS - EMEAA
VILLAGE CAPITAL

MODERATOR :
The Circular Economy Revolution: Scaling
Sustainable Solutions



Eva Waweru is a Senior Associate for Communications at Village Capital, where she leads the organization's communications and brand-building efforts across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.

FLORENT NDUWAYEZ
CLIMATEHACK NAIROBI AMBASSADOR
HACKGROUP

JUDGE & PANELLIST :
The Circular Economy Revolution: Scaling
Sustainable Solutions



Florent Nduwayezu has been deeply involved in the African tech ecosystem, serving in various capacities from CFO of startups to managing early-stage and growth-stage investments. He has also explored innovative financing models such as venture debt and milestones based financing across both East and West Africa. Over the past few years, his focus has been on early-stage climate tech investments, driving innovation and sustainability within the sector.

ELIZABETH ODIMA
BUSINESS ANALYST
KENYA CLIMATE INNOVATION CENTER



PANELLIST :
The Circular Economy Revolution: Scaling Sustainable Solutions

Elizabeth Odima is a dynamic Business Analyst, currently working with the Kenya Climate Innovation Center (KCIC), where she supports waste management enterprises in scaling up and sustaining their businesses. With her extensive experience in driving growth, and securing financing for enterprises in the climate and circular economy sectors, she specializes in project management, disability inclusion, and empowering underrepresented groups, including youth, women, and persons with disabilities, through entrepreneurship, climate change education, and livelihood initiatives. Her expertise spans business formation, operations, finance, and management, along with project planning, setup, and monitoring and evaluation. As an effective communicator and motivator, Elizabeth leverages available assets and resources to achieve strategic goals and foster sustainable development.

THOMAS BONGANI HART
PROGRAM MANAGER
FRENCH SOUTH AFRICAN TECH LABS



PANELLIST :
The Circular Economy Revolution: Scaling Sustainable Solutions

Thomas Hart is a green economy and communications specialist with 13 years of experience working across Africa. He has led health campaigns, business development programs, and eco-tourism research. Thomas focuses on green and circular economy design, collaborating with companies like SAB-Miller and Unilever. He currently manages programs at the French South African Tech Labs, an early stage business incubator helping digital startup founders move from concept to customer.

ALVIN ANDERSON
COUNTRY DIRECTOR
BORDA South Africa

PANELLIST :
The Circular Economy Revolution: Scaling Sustainable Solutions



Alvin Anderson is the Country Director for BORDA South Africa, an international non-profit specializing in decentralized sanitation solutions. Based in Durban, South Africa, he oversees operations, strategic oversight, and project management in South Africa while also managing project finance and donor-related funds across the Africa region. BORDA, with its headquarters in Germany, operates in five other African countries: Tanzania, Mali, Zambia, Senegal, and Mauritania. Alvin originally joined BORDA in 2020 as the Regional Finance Project Manager, a role he continues to fulfill. He has over 10 years of experience in the social enterprise and development sector and holds a Bachelor of Technology in Public Management & Economics from Durban University of Technology.

VERE SHABA
CO-FOUNDER
DECARBONISE AFRICA

MODERATOR :
Funding the Future: Building a Resilient Investment Ecosystem



Vere Shaba is the co-founder of Decarbonise Africa, a company that advises listed and non-listed companies across all sectors with a footprint across Africa to mitigate the impacts of climate change through on-the-ground climate and data analytics, accelerators and venture building for Seed to Series A dilutive and nondilutive funding and investments. Vere holds a BSc in Engineering from the University of Cape Town and a MSc in Climate Change and Development from SOAS University of London.

CHRISTINE MBAABU
SOFTWARE ENGINEER
MICROSOFT

PANELLIST :
Funding the Future: Building a Resilient
Investment Ecosystem



Christine Mbaabu is dedicated to guiding businesses on their journey toward sustainable success by focusing on people, planet, and profit. With over 10 years of specialized experience in program management, enterprise support and investments, SME advisory and mentorship, and innovative climate financing, Christine is committed to making a positive impact on the world.

VLADIMIR DUGIN
SENIOR PARTNER
E3 CAPITAL

PANELLIST :
Funding the Future: Building a Resilient Investment
Ecosystem



Vladimir is a Senior Partner at E3 Capital. He has 17+ years of experience in investment banking and private equity in emerging markets. Vladimir is passionate about driving disruptive innovation across the emerging world and effecting positive impact across industries and economies. After spending a few months in East Africa in 2017, he decided to follow this passion and move to Nairobi to focus on low carbon investments across the African continent. He is a Board Member of Untapped Global, Solarise Africa, SolarX Africa and ZiZ Energie. Vladimir holds an MBA from INSEAD.

NAMARA
PARTNER | AFRICA SEED FUND
FLAT6LABS

JUDGE & Panellist:
Funding the Future: Building a Resilient Investment Ecosystem



Namara has over 12 years of experience in the African tech ecosystem, having held roles in high-growth startups specializing in B2B sales, people management, and technical product management. As the former Head of Ventures at a leading African accelerator, she redesigned the program and managed investments in 25 startups over two years. Currently, she is a Partner at Flat6Labs's Africa Seed Fund, an \$85 million fund aimed at supporting early to seed-stage startups across North, East, and West Africa. Namara is committed to driving transformative change and helping Africa reach its full potential through innovative programs and capital investments.

MAXIME BOUAN
GENERAL PARTNER
SEEDSTARS AFRICA VENTURES

PANELLIST :
Funding the Future: Building a Resilient Investment Ecosystem



Maxime Bouan is a seasoned investor in the African landscape, investing for nearly 15 years in the region across banking, fintech, education, energy, and agriculture. After managing BlueOrchard Finance's African strategy for 8 years, he is co-founding Partner at Seedstars Africa Ventures and Investment committee member of the Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund.

TOWETT NGETICH
INVESTMENT AND FINANCE PROFESSIONAL
54 COLLECTIVE VC

PANELLIST :
Funding the Future: Building a Resilient Investment
Ecosystem



Towett is an investment and finance professional. He serves on the 54 Collective Investments portfolio team, investing, supporting, building value, and realising exits across Africa's most extensive portfolio of 78+ businesses and founders. He has led investments and exits in early—and growth-stage—African companies in climate, agriculture, finance, and healthcare, among other industries. He has a keen interest in finance, its investment instruments, and how new financial structures can optimise portfolio value while being of service to founders. He aligns his investment prospects with SDG, climate, and ESG/responsible investment goals.

NIKUNJ SHAH
DIRECTOR
SELECT GLOBAL SOLUTIONS



JUDGE

Nikunj Shah, founder of Select Global Solutions, helps international companies build human capital in Africa, Middle East, India, and other emerging markets. With 25+ years of experience in manufacturing, entrepreneurship, and talent development, he drives business growth through strategic talent acquisition, leadership development, and technology transformation. Nikunj is an active angel investor with over 30 investments across Asia, Africa and Europe and he advises early stage ventures as they scale.

THEA SOKOLOWSKI
HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING
STITCH



JUDGE

Thea Sokolowski is the Head of Marketing and Communications at Stitch, a leading fintech company focused on building seamless payment and financial infrastructure across Africa. With a strong background in scaling marketing efforts for tech and financial startups, Thea is dedicated to driving growth and expanding Stitch's impact in the fintech landscape. She is passionate about leveraging technology to increase financial access and innovation in emerging markets.

ANDREW DARGE
INVESTMENT MANAGER
E3 CAPITAL



JUDGE

Andrew Darge is an Investment Manager at E3 Capital where he is responsible for deal origination and screening, through to execution and portfolio management. Throughout his career, he has advised and executed on transactions in numerous countries in Africa, as well as further afield in emerging markets such as India, Colombia and Indonesia. His experience covers several sectors including foods & agribusiness, fin-tech, logistics, digital infrastructure and energy & climate. Andrew is a qualified CA(SA) and CFA Charterholder.

JOCELYN NYAGUSE
HEAD OF MARKETING
STARTUPBOOTCAMP AFRITECH



JUDGE

Jocelyn Nyaguse has a passion for Storytelling and Business Development which has resulted in her working with incredible companies that include Impact Hub and Startupbootcamp AfriTech where she is currently the Head of Marketing and Storytelling. She is a renowned pitch coach and startup enthusiast with a particular leaning toward Social Innovation, Impact, and Entrepreneurship.

DELILA KIDANU
COO
OKOA RESCUE

JUDGE



Delila Kidanu is the co-founder and COO of OKOA Rescue, which provides emergency and relief services across East Africa by building a network of skilled mechanics and service providers. She holds an MSc in Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship from KTH in Stockholm. Delila's previous roles include managing external relations at ThinkYoung and working in Business Development and Partnerships at MEST Africa, where she focused on supporting African tech startups.

LUCA ZIMMERMANN
STARTUP ADVISOR
GIZ

JUDGE



Luca Zimmermann is part of the GIZ-SAIS project which supports African AgTech start-ups through their annual Investment Readiness Program.

MICHELLE HEAH
STARTUP ADVISOR & TECH STRATEGY
GREEN INTELLIGENCE

JUDGE



Michelle Heah, a Startup Advisor and Tech Strategist at Green Intelligence started her career in African Exits in London, and since then, she has accumulated perspectives from a variety of sectors and roles, ranging from investment banker, investor, venture builder, operator and advisor. Her journey provided her with clarity on her long-term goal of investing in ventures within the pan-African early-stage ecosystem to drive economic growth. She is currently part of the African Angel Academy's latest cohort of angel investors and part of the structuring team of a Swiss-headquartered company in the climate space, candi.solar, with operations across South Africa and India. A firm believer in education as a tool for empowerment and in the long-term growth potential of the African continent, she is passionate about addressing real world challenges in Africa and other emerging economies through innovative technology solutions for scale and efficiency.

NICK VILELLE
FOUNDING MEMBER
NAIROBI BUSINESS ANGEL NETWORK

JUDGE



Nick Vilelle is an entrepreneur and investor. He has spent the past 20 years supporting entrepreneurs across the African continent. Through this experience, he has had the opportunity to work with and advise hundreds of startups. In addition to supporting other entrepreneurs, he has founded three social enterprises and four companies of his own. Nick is based in Nairobi and founded the Nairobi Business Angel Network (NaiBAN). This Kenyan angel group has quickly grown to 150 members and has made 29 investments in its first 3 years of operations.

Pitch Challenge: Clean Tech



Knights and Apps
Sector: E-mobility



Monsapo
Sector: Clean Tech



Carbon Zero Mobility
Sector: E-mobility



Beyond Captur
Sector: Carbon Capture and Energy



Ecolinks
Sector: Clean Tech

Pitch Challenge: Climate Tech



Solarinno
Sector: Water Purification & Energy



eAgro Pvt Ltd
Sector: Agritech



RHEA Soil Health
Sector: Agritech



TCRK Energy
Sector: Carbon Capture & Energy



BlueGold
Sector: Nanotechnology & Clean Energy



Bottle Logistics
Sector: Circular Economy

Pitch Challenge: AgriTech



Thanks Carbon
Sector: Agritech/Carbon Monitoring



Stable Foods
Sector: Agritech



Maua Mazuri
Sector: Agritech/Plant Biotechnology



Gene Plus Global
Sector: Agritech



iShamba Limited
Sector: Agritech



Aquarech
Sector: Agritech

Pitch Challenge: Circular Economy

kaloola
A better life, always

Kaloola
Sector: Waste



Organic Kenya Limited
Grow with us

Organic Kenya Limited
Sector: Waste & Agriculture



African Collective Textiles
Sector: Circular Economy



GREEN PENCILS LTD
(Nairobi, Long Karing)

Green Pencils
Sector: Circular Economy



Gjenge
Sector: Circular Economy

HYGROW
ORGANIC FERTILIZER

Organic Fields
Sector: Waste & Agriculture

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