

Climate Action Hackathon

Leveraging Weather and Climate Data to Create Solutions for Adaptation

Bonn, Germany, 24 May, 2016

Speaker Profiles

Bonizella Biagini, CIRDA Programme Manager, UNDP-GEF

Dr. Bonizella (Boni) Biagini currently manages the UNDP's Programme on Climate Information for Resilient Development in Africa (CIRDA). This regional programme engages with government ministries and national hydrometeorological services from 11 of Africa's Least Developed Countries to leverage new approaches and appropriate technologies to produce sustainable long-term solutions for providing weather and climate information to vulnerable communities and key decision makers at local and national levels.

Prior to joining UNDP in 2014, Dr. Biagini worked at the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for 12 years, leading the creation and development of the GEF Adaptation program and project portfolio. She was the senior official responsible for mobilizing resources for the first two dedicated adaptation funds: the Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), which together have received donor support of \$1.5 billion. Before joining the GEF, Dr. Biagini worked at several NGOs including the Climate, Energy and Pollution Program at the World Resources Institute and the international office of Legambiente, a leading Italian environmental research organization. A physicist by training, Dr. Biagini has worked on climate change and other global environmental issues for 25 years in Europe, the United States, Africa, Asia, and several small island states.

Michael Kirsch, Deputy Director of the Brown Institute for Media Innovation, Columbia University

Michael Kirsch currently serves as the Deputy Director of the David and Helen Gurley Brown Institute for Media Innovation. Established in 2012, the Brown Institute is a collaboration between Columbia and Stanford Universities, designed to encourage and support new endeavors in the crosshairs of engineering and storytelling. At Brown, Michael is currently exploring how online social networks appear in an offline context.

Prior to joining the Brown Institute, Michael worked on the web strategy team at Columbia Law School, managing the development and implementation of various web tools and analytical frameworks. Michael is also the founder of Communal Craft, a design studio based in New York City producing handcrafted furniture and lighting. Michael earned both his undergraduate and graduate

degrees from Georgetown University, where he majored in English and studio art and attained a master's in journalism

Robert Ouku Ohuru, Team Leader of the #mLisho App Team

Robert Ouko is a Kenyan national and a software developer. Since Jan 2015, he has been working at Upande limited, Kenya, as software developer in a MAMASE (Mau, Mara and Serengeti) project to develop Mara Rangeland Information System(MARIS) in collaboration with ITC, Netherlands. He is also one of the contributors towards the development of the next version of ILWIS (Integrated Land and Water Information System) which is a tool for remote sensing and GIS calculations. Prior to that he has worked at NatureSurf System and Equity Bank limited as a software developer.

Robert's ongoing mission is to use weather forecasting data to help African farmers improve their farm production. He has a background in Computer Science from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology.

Alan Miller, Private Sector Advisor, C4 EcoSolutions

Alan Miller is an internationally recognized authority on climate finance and policy. His clients include UNDP, US AID, and the World Bank. In January 2014 he retired after 16 years working on climate change issues for the World Bank Group including 10 years for the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector lending arm of the Bank, and 6 years at the Global Environment Facility (GEF), a multilateral fund for climate change projects. His responsibilities included representing the IFC/WBG in international forums focused on climate change and green growth including meetings of the UN Climate Convention and the G20, as well as climate change policy development, training, and publications. At the GEF he was Climate Change Team Leader responsible for managing policies and approval of over \$1 billion in donor funding for clean energy projects in more than 70 developing countries.

He previously created and directed the Center for Global Change at the University of Maryland (1989-96) and served on the staffs of the World Resources Institute and Natural Resources Defense Council. He is a lawyer and widely published author and contributor of chapters in multiple books including a leading environmental law textbook. His degrees are from Cornell University (A.B., Government 1971) and University of Michigan (J.D. and M.P.P. 1974). He was a Fulbright Scholar in Australia (1977) and Japan (1987). He serves on the board of the Institute for Market Transformation and previously served on committees of the American Bar Association, Montgomery County, and Renewable Energy Policy Project.