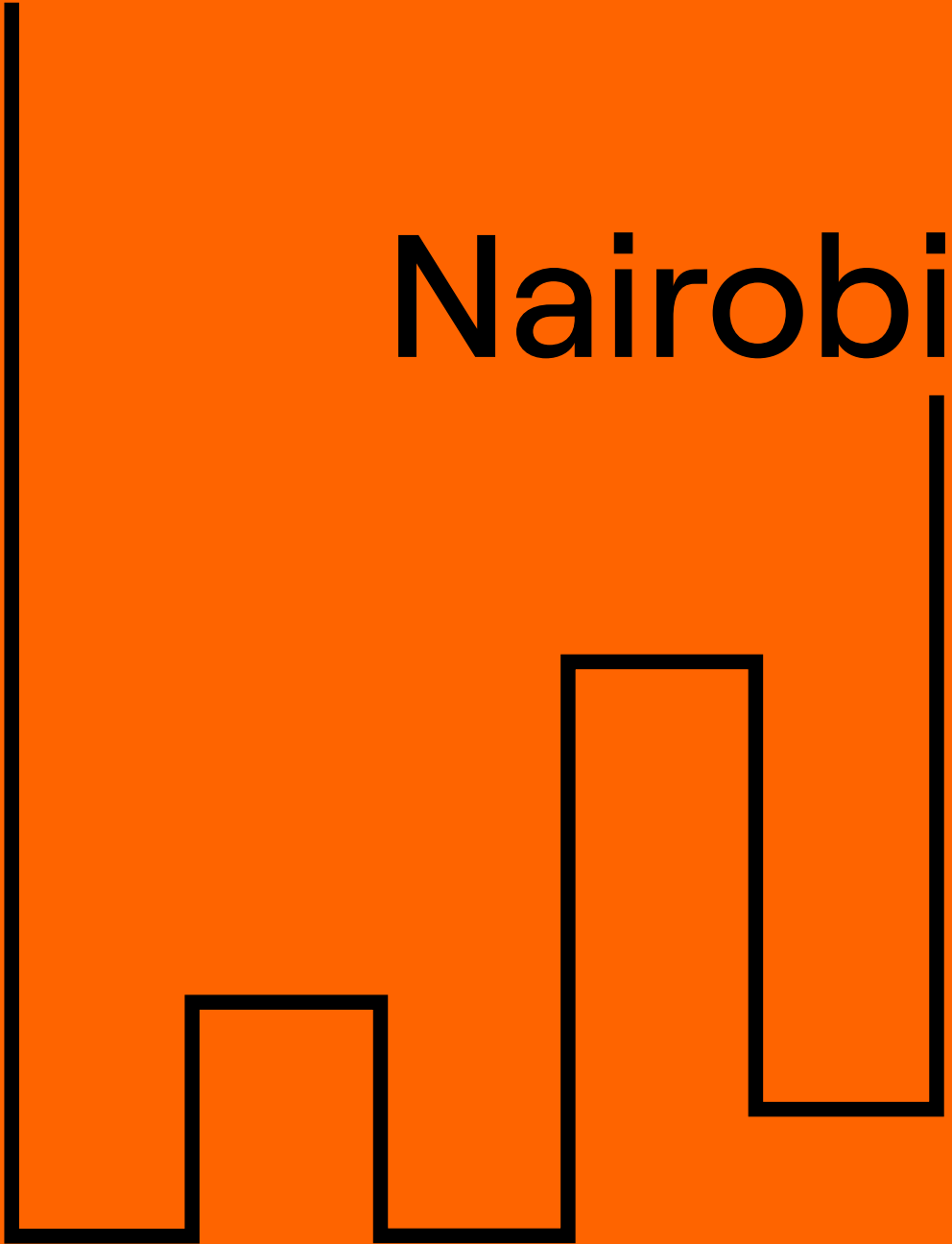


B — BUG

23 — 25
October
2025

Nairobi



3 Program

9 Our Partners

11 Speakers

44 Information

Thu
23/10

Inputs and discussion
in Nairobi

- Wed 22/10 Arrival
- 20:55 LH509 from Frankfurt arrives
- 22:00 Transfer from Nairobi International Airport to Kwetu The Hilton
- 23:00 Midnight snack and informal welcome
- 6:00 Individual breakfast at Kwetu The Hilton
- 7:30 Transfer from Kwetu The Hilton to Cultiva
- 8:30 Welcome
Jürgen Kern, Chief Sustainability Officer, KfW Group
Jimmie Mandima, Chief Field Officer and Senior Vice President, Conservation International
Michael Schwarz, Managing Director, BBUG e.V.
- 9:00 Speed Networking
- 9:30 Kenya 360
Marek Hanusch, Lead Economist, World Bank
Kristina Laarmann, Head of Kenya Office, KfW Group
Susann von Lojewski, Correspondent, ZDF
- 10:15 Coffee Break
- 11:00 KfW and Biodiversity – an introduction
Jürgen Kern, Chief Sustainability Officer, KfW Group
- 12:00 History of conservation in Kenya
Helen Gichohi, former President, African Wildlife Foundation
- 12:30 Lunch

Continued
Thu 23/10

- 13:30 Nature Finance
Nava Anvari, Investment director and Africa regional lead,
LGT Venture Philanthropy
- Barbara Chesire**, Managing Director, AB Entheos Ltd.
- Makari Krause**, Principal, Head of Natural
Capital Advisory, CrossBoundary
- Priya Sinha**, Investment Director for the
Fund for Nature, CrossBoundary
- Bjorn Stauch**, Senior Vice President – Nature Finance,
Conservation International
- 15:00 Coffee break
- 15:30 Group Input
Henrik Pontzen, Chief Sustainability
Officer, Union Investment (152. BBUG)
- Silvia Schmitt-Walgenbach**, Chief Finance Transformation
and Strategy Officer, Merck KGaA (140. BBUG)
- 16:15 Community-led conservation
Resson Kantai Duff, Portfolio Funding
Director, Maliasili
- Jackson Mpario**, CEO, Oloisukut Community Conservancy
- Daniel Sopia**, CEO, Maasai Mara
Conservancies Association
- 17:00 Excursion outlook
Seif Hamisi, Managing Director, East Africa,
Conservation International
- 17:15 Wrap-up
- 17:30 Transfer from Cultiva to German Ambassador's Residence
- 18:00 Reception at German Ambassador's Residence
- 20:30 Transfer from German Ambassador's
Residence to Kwetu The Hilton

Fri 24/10

Excursion Day
Kindly remember to
bring your passport

- 5:30 Individual breakfast at Kwetu The Hilton
- 6:00 Transfer from Kwetu The Hilton to Wilson Airport
- 6:45 Check-in and boarding
- 7:00 Flight from Wilson Airport to Kimana Sanctuary
- 8:00 Excursion program (Please see BBUG-App for more information closer to the date)
Staff from BigLife

Staff from Conservation International
- 17:00 Flight from Kimana Sanctuary to Wilson Airport
- 18:00 Transfer from Wilson Airport to Kwetu The Hilton
- 19:30 Reception at Kwetu The Hilton
- 20:00 Dinner at Kwetu The Hilton

Sat 25/10

Reflection and half-day
excursions

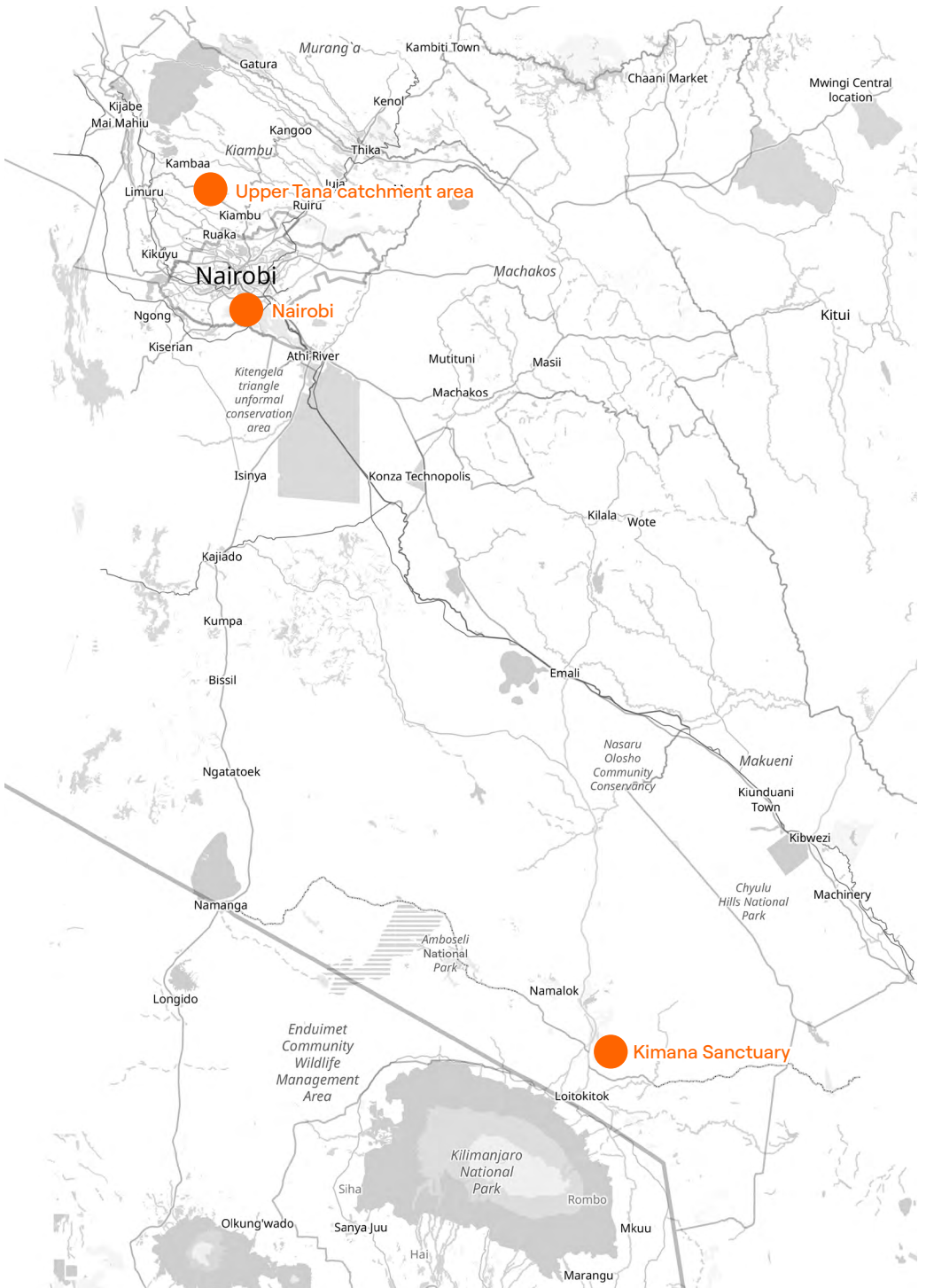
- 6:00 Individual breakfast at Kwetu The Hilton
- 9:00 Recap of yesterday's excursion (incl. coffee)
Jürgen Kern, Chief Sustainability Officer, KfW Group

Herbert Lust, Chief Public and Corporate Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Strategy Officer, Conservation International

Tim Steinecke, Program Lead, BBUG e.V.
- 10:30 Germany in Kenya and East Africa
Sebastian Groth, German Ambassador to Kenya
- 11:15 Introduction of afternoon activities
- 11:30 Lunch snacks

Continued
Sat 25/10

- 12:00 Excursion
Group splits into three groups of 20 people
- Group 1 + 2: Visit to Upper-Tana Water
Fund with The Nature Conservancy
- Group 3: Visit to Adorlife and/or ComfortWorms
with Hand-in-Hand International
- 16:30 Dinner at Beit e Selam including short wrap-up
- 18:00 Transfer from Beit e Selam to Kwetu The Hilton
- 18:30 Refresh & packing time at Kwetu The Hilton
- 19:30 Transfer from Kwetu The Hilton to
Nairobi International Airport
- 22:55 LH591 departs from Nairobi to Frankfurt



“Until you dig a hole, you plant a tree, you water it and make it survive, you haven’t done a thing. You are just talking.”

**Wangari Maathai,
Environmentalist
and Nobel Laureate**

Our Partners



Conservation International

Conservation International (CI) is a non-profit operating in over 30 countries across six continents to empower societies to sustainably care for nature for humanity's well-being. It partners with communities, governments, academia, civil-society organizations, foundations, and the private sector to deliver innovative, nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation. In developing countries, CI works with government and academic institutions as well as indigenous organizations. With global corporations, it has a track record of improving business sustainability. Its core activities include reducing deforestation, improving agriculture, protecting ecosystems as

carbon sinks, and setting standards for mitigation and adaptation. CI aims to scale its impact by advancing on-the-ground climate action, providing science-based decision-making tools, and mobilizing corporations and stakeholders.

KfW Group

KfW is one of the world's leading promotional banks. Through KfW Development Bank it finances development projects in emerging and developing countries on behalf of the German government to improve economic, social, and ecological conditions. Its goals include reducing poverty, promoting peace, protecting the environment and climate, and fostering sustainable globalization. Working with state actors, it

focuses on areas such as water supply, climate action, and sustainable energy, tailoring solutions to the needs of partner countries, including vulnerable states and fast-growing economies. KfW supports global biodiversity by funding more than 850 conservation areas and measures in about 70 countries, particularly in Latin America and Africa, to safeguard habitats and ecosystems. Through diverse financial tools, partnerships, and initiatives like eco-corridors, it promotes sustainable land use, links conservation areas, and ensures local populations' rights are respected. The bank also addresses the interconnected crises of biodiversity loss and climate change, recognizing their importance to human well-being, food security, and health.

With Further Support From

Big Life Foundation

Big Life Foundation works with communities in Kenya and Tanzania to protect East Africa's wildlife and wild lands. It employs local rangers for anti-poaching patrols, mitigates human-wildlife conflict, and ensures conservation benefits people. The foundation supports education and compensates livestock losses, emphasizing that conservation and communities must sustain each other for long-term protection of the Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro ecosystem.

Big Life's approach combines community conservation, ranger patrols, and conflict mitigation with investments in education, bursaries, water access, and conservation workshops. Its operations focus on safeguarding one of East Africa's last large elephant populations while maintaining migration routes. Through collaboration with NGOs, governments, and parks, and by using innovative strategies, the foundation strengthens its conservation goals across the region.

Hand in Hand International

Hand in Hand International is an international network of organizations focused on empowering women in developing countries to escape poverty by providing them with skills, resources, and market access, thereby igniting local economies and fostering gender equity. Through its proven, locally-adapted model developed over 20 years, the organization offers training in business, digital skills, and regenerative agriculture, alongside access to credit and links to markets, to help 10 million women earn more and build financially resilient lives.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) & Upper Tana-Nairobi Water Fund Trust (UTNWF)

The Nature Conservancy, founded in 1951, is a global nonprofit dedicated to conserving lands and waters essential for all life. With a vision where people and nature thrive, it promotes biodiversity for both its intrinsic value and human well-being. TNC tackles climate change

and biodiversity loss through conservation projects and collaborations with governments, communities, and businesses in the U.S. and more than 80 countries and territories.

Africa's first water fund, the Upper Tana-Nairobi Water Fund Trust (UTNWF), offers a practical solution to global water security by preventing problems at the source rather than addressing them later. It unites downstream users, such as Nairobi's residents, with upstream watershed stewards like farmers, ensuring a shared commitment to a healthy water future. Established by The Nature Conservancy, UTNWF became an independent organization in September 2021 and now operates locally, grounded in decades of global research and practice.





Speakers

Nava Anvari

Investment director and Africa regional lead, LGT Venture Philanthropy



At LGT Venture Philanthropy Nava manages the philanthropic activities of the Princely family of Liechtenstein in the sectors of education, health and conservation across sub-Saharan Africa. She is also co-founding a conservation-focused funding collaborative operating across East Africa aimed at enabling community conservation models to scale.

She has over 15 years' experience working in development. Prior to helping establish LGT VP's Africa entity and running it, she worked in impact investing at lightrock, was a management consultant at Dalberg and worked at an INGO in Israel. Nava holds a degree in finance and economics from the University of Cape Town.

Tim Bromfield
Vice President, Africa,
Conservation International



Tim Bromfield is Vice President for Africa at Conservation International, where he's responsible for setting and overseeing the delivery of CI's 10-year Africa strategy, which is unlocking finance to support 20 critical landscapes. Tim joined CI in February and in his role is building the operational and leadership capacity required to scale CI's impact across the continent.

Prior to CI, Tim spent over a decade at the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBI), advising political leaders across Africa on strategy, policy, and delivery, enabled by technology. As Managing Director for TBI in Africa, he led a 250-person organisation across 17 countries, providing embedded advisory services to African political leaders, including heads of state and ministers. As Executive Director for Global New Business and Impact, he shaped TBI's value proposition and oversaw market entry into 25 countries globally.

Previously, Tim served as Country Director of TBI in Rwanda. Based in President Kagame's office, Tim led an embedded team across government supporting reforms in agriculture,

energy, investment and government capacity. He's also worked as an Advisor to Presidential Delivery Units in Sierra Leone and Nigeria.

Tim commenced his career in management consulting in the UK, before swapping his suit for sandals to lead a Royal Geographical Society-backed expedition around the Atlantic to assess the effects of sea level rise around the Atlantic littoral. His organization, Atlantic Rising, built a network between schools around the Atlantic to discuss the effects of climate change and explore issues of climate change equity.

A graduate of the University of Cambridge and alumnus of Harvard Business School, Tim brings deep experience of working with African governments to improve systems and processes for delivery. He is also an advisory board member of FOLA sustainability, a specialist nature consultancy.

Barbara Chesire
Managing Director,
AB Entheos Ltd.



Barbara has been in the insurance industry for 18 years and is passionate to see insurance play a role in increasing financial resilience across the continent. She co-founded AB Entheos in 2014 and has grown AB Entheos to be a world-renowned insurance catalyst that has projects across 12 countries in Africa.

AB Entheos has pioneered insurance for Human-Wildlife Conflict covering over 8 million people in Kenya and Zambia through WILD Cover. The company has also developed ResilientME!, a financial literacy game that has been played by over 400,000 people across 6 countries in Africa. Barbara is a Henry Arnold Fellow with the Mulago Foundation, receiving support to scale and replicate

AB Entheos' Human-Wildlife Conflict Insurance solution across Africa. She is also a member of the IUCN Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence Specialist Group.

Barbara is an Oxford Graduate, graduating with a Postgraduate Degree in Global Business from Said Business School in 2024. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Actuarial Science from the University of Calgary in Canada minoring in Statistics and Economics and has a Diploma in Actuarial Techniques. She serves on various boards including Britam Insurance and St. Andrew's School Turi.

Julius Court

Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Executive Vice President, Conservation International



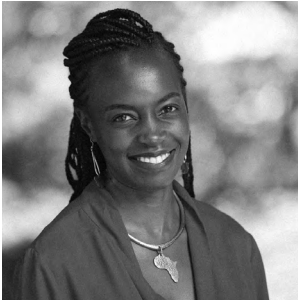
Julius Court is Conservation International's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, overseeing the organization's \$350m annual budget, people, operations, and multi-year planning and strategy.

Before taking on this leadership role at Conservation International, Julius worked for the government of the United Kingdom (UK), where he served as the Development Director and Deputy High Commissioner to Kenya. He's previously held other senior positions within the UK government, including heading both the Prosperity Fund and the Department for International Development's Strategy Unit. The global movement toward and

pressing need for impactful, people-centered climate action drove him to shift his career focus from policy toward conservation and join Conservation International.

Prior to joining the UK civil service, Julius worked for the United Nations and the Overseas Development Institute. His work has taken him around the world, including many of Conservation International's field areas, and to posts in South Sudan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Japan. To help continue the organization's concentration on impact with and for the most climate-vulnerable countries, Julius is based in Conservation International's Kenya office.

Resson Kantai Duff
Portfolio Funding Director,
Maliasili



Resson Kantai Duff is a community conservation advocate, the incoming Portfolio Funding Director at Maliasili, and a Women for the Environment (WE Africa) Founding Fellow. Having worked in the environmental and conservation space for fifteen years, her work has grown to revolve around co-creating and advancing a community-led narrative where Africans can reclaim their sense of ownership over their wildlife, culture and land.

She previously served as the Deputy Director of Ewaso Lions, a community conservation organisation in northern Kenya. She is a TED Speaker, a National Geographic Explorer, and was also conferred the Wild Elements Innovator award in 2021.

Mona Freundt

Director, Germany,
Conservation International



Mona Freundt leads CI's work in Germany, engaging with government institutions, foundations, civil society, and the private sector. In this role, she identifies opportunities and emerging trends to foster partnerships and collaborations that drive global resource mobilization for climate and nature.

She brings over a decade of experience in sustainable finance and policy, with a strong focus on the EU sustainable finance agenda and the European Green Deal. Previously, Mona led CDP's (formerly Carbon Disclosure Project) EU policy

efforts on corporate reporting and due diligence regulations. Earlier in her career, she conducted research on climate and energy policy at the Berlin-based think tank Ecologic Institute.

Helen Gichochi
former President, African
Wildlife Foundation



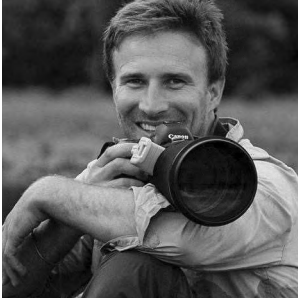
Helen Gichochi is former President of the African Wildlife Foundation, having led one of Africa's foremost conservation NGOs. She has built a distinguished track record in conservation science, policy advocacy and institutional leadership.

Helen's early career involved research in ecology, wildlife management and biodiversity, often in East Africa, where she combined academic insight with field experience. Over time she transitioned into leadership roles in conservation organizations, advocating for integrated approaches that combine community livelihoods, ecosystem protection and sustainable financing.

Under her presidency at AWF, she strengthened partnerships with governments, donors, and local communities, emphasizing local ownership and resilience in conservation strategies. She has published in academic journals, contributed to international fora on biodiversity and sustainable development, and been a voice bridging science, policy, and practice in Africa's conservation sector.

Jeremy Goss

Conservation scientist,
BigLife Foundation



Jeremy was born in South Africa, and raised to love the wild spaces of the continent from an early age. After completing a BSc (Environmental Science) followed by BCom (Hons in Economics) at the University of Cape Town, he spent a number of years working in the tourism industry in Botswana.

Feeling that there was something missing from his formal education, he returned to the University of Cape Town to complete an MSc in Conservation Biology.

He first travelled to Kenya in 2013 to conduct a 6-month research project on human-predator conflict interventions in the Amboseli Ecosystem, and soon after joined Big Life Foundation where he has been since, and currently serves as Head of Conservation Science and Communication.

Sebastian Groth

German Ambassador to Kenya, German Foreign Office



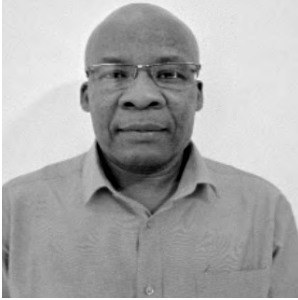
Sebastian Groth studied economics and sociology in Cologne and in Montpellier/France before he started his diplomatic career at the Federal Foreign Office Training Academy in 2001, taking over his first position as First Secretary at the German Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, working on Somalia, South Sudan and Burundi and as Press and Cultural Attaché.

From 2004 to 2010 he was member of the Policy Planning Staff, working on energy and climate policy and on global economic affairs, followed by the position of Adviser for Foreign Policy and French-German relations in the Cabinets of the French Prime Ministers François Fillon, Jean-Marc Ayrault et Manuel Valls from 2010 to 2014.

Upon return to the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin, Germany, he served as the Head of the State Secretaries' Office until 2016, followed by the position of Deputy Director, and subsequently, Director for Policy Planning until 2022. Ambassador Groth is currently the designated German Ambassador to the Republic of Kenya, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of Seychelles, and to UNEP and UN-HABITAT, holding this position since mid-2022.

As a passionate Jazz-pianist, Ambassador Groth enjoys hosting as well as attending musical and cultural events.

Dr. Seif Hamisi
Managing Director, East
Africa, Conservation
International



Dr. Seif Hamisi is a career conservation program management specialist with more than 25 years of experience across Africa, particularly in East and Southern Africa. He currently serves as Conservation International’s Managing Director for East Africa and leads the Kenya office, a role he assumed in July 2022.

Before joining CI, Dr. Hamisi held various leadership and technical positions with organizations including the Kenya Wildlife Service, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and the African Wildlife Foundation. He has also served as a university lecturer at Taita Taveta University.

A Kenyan born and raised in Taveta, Taita Taveta County—on the southern edge of the Tsavo ecosystem—Dr. Hamisi brings both local and global perspectives to his work. He holds a B.Sc. in Botany and Zoology, an M.Sc. in Comparative Mammalian Physiology, and a Ph.D. in Conservation Biology from the University of Nairobi.

Marek Hanusch

Lead Economist, World Bank



Marek Hanusch is a Lead Economist in the World Bank's Economic Policy Global Practice in the Eastern and Southern Africa Region, based in Nairobi. He was previously Senior Economist for Brazil and South Africa.

He holds a doctorate from the University of Oxford and has published in various economics and development journals including the *European Economic Review*, *Economics Letters*, and *Public Choice*. He led numerous World Bank reports including "A Balancing Act for Brazil's Amazonian States: An Economic Memorandum" and "An Incomplete Transition: Overcoming the Legacy of Exclusion in South Africa", published by the World Bank and Cape Town University Press respectively.

His main professional and academic interests lie in structural policies for economic growth, poverty reduction, equity, and fiscal and environmental sustainability.

Amalia Johansson
CEO, Hand in Hand
International



Amalia Johansson has worked in international development for more than 15 years, specialising in financial inclusion and supporting rural livelihoods. Prior to joining Hand in Hand, she was Head of Financial Sector Development at Nathan Associates, overseeing the organisation's portfolio of financial sector focused work.

Amalia has worked with and advised a range of institutional and corporate donors, including DFID, SIDA, FSDA, Access to Finance Rwanda, Mastercard Foundation, Barclays, and Deutsche Bank. She also worked at Plan International UK, and spent several years at the OECD and in the UK financial industry.

She has a Masters in International Affairs from Columbia University and a Bachelor degree in Economics from the University of Cambridge.

Jürgen Kern

Chief Sustainability Officer,
KfW Group



Jürgen Kern is the Chief Sustainability Officer of KfW Group, based in Frankfurt, Germany. In this capacity, he is responsible for overseeing the Group's comprehensive sustainability program and ensuring compliance with all relevant sustainability regulations. He leads KfW's Sustainability Strategy Department and coordinates the Group's sustainability initiatives across all business areas.

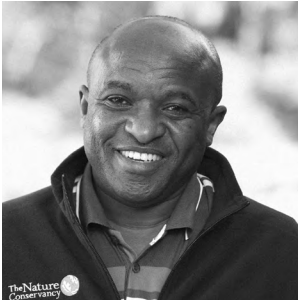
Beyond his core responsibilities at KfW, Jürgen Kern serves as a member of the Stakeholder Committee of the French Groupe Caisse des Dépôts. With more than 20 years of experience in international finance and corporate strategy, Jürgen Kern has held several key positions within KfW Group. These include Director of

Corporate Strategy and Sustainability at KfW Group, Head of Division for Energy in Southeast Europe at KfW Development Bank, Director of KfW's office in Brazil, and Policy Officer on secondment to the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

His broad expertise covers strategic planning, international project management, and policy development. He actively contributes to shaping sustainable finance policies at both national and European levels. Jürgen Kern holds a master's degree in international economics from the University of Tübingen (Germany). He is also an alumnus of INSEAD Business School and the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS).

Fred Kihara

Africa Water Funds Director,
The Nature Conservancy



Fred Kihara; is the Africa Water Funds Director at The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and a founding Trustee of the Upper Tana-Nairobi Water Fund. He also serves in the governance board of the World Water Council. He has over 20-year experience working in nature and water conservation in Africa.

He has vast knowledge building public-private partnerships and engaging corporates in sustainability related work. Fred holds a BSc and MSc in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Nairobi and further training in Natural Resources Management from Colorado State University. He trained in Strategic Organizational Leadership in Harvard and Cambridge Universities.

He previously worked for UNDP and Kenya government before joining TNC in 2012. He oversees the Africa portfolio of 17 Water Funds under the Resilient Watersheds program.

Makari Krause
Principal, Head of Natural
Capital Advisory,
CrossBoundary



Makari Krause is a Principal at CrossBoundary and leads the Natural Capital advisory practice at the firm. Makari focuses on mobilizing capital for nature-based projects and enterprises in emerging markets with a specialization in East and Southern Africa.

Over the past two years, Makari has supported projects and investors in sectors including: nature-based carbon, sustainable forestry, regenerative agriculture, ecotourism, hunting, biodiversity credits, biochar, and water.

Makari's expertise spans carbon finance, corporate finance, and project finance with a particular emphasis on incorporating a range of capital types into transactions through blended finance approaches.

Kristina Laarmann

Director KfW Office Nairobi,
KfW Group



Since August 2024 Ms. Kristina Laarmann is the director of KfW's Kenya office in Nairobi with responsibility for an extensive portfolio of development projects in the areas of renewable energies, sustainable economic development and sustainable, climate-sensitive agriculture.

Until then, she worked as Head of the Division Climate and Resource Protection North Africa in KfW's headquarters in Frankfurt. From 2012 – 2017 Kristina served as director of KfW's office in Tunisia. She led the establishment of the office in 2012 and has been overseeing its growing financial engagement in Tunisia in sectors such as water, renewable energies, finance and decentralization.

Before moving to Tunisia, Kristina held various positions at KfW's headquarters in Frankfurt and was seconded to the Budget Division of the German Ministry for Cooperation and Economic Development. Kristina holds a Master's degree in Development Management from the London School of Economics & Political Science and a Master's degree in Economics from the Rheinische-Friedrich-Wilhelms University in Bonn.

Beatrice N. Lempira

Landscape Director,
Southern Kenya Grasslands,
Conservation International



Beatrice leads CI work in the Southern Kenya landscape, overseeing day-to-day operations, coordinating and consolidating ongoing projects, strengthening partner relationships, and driving program expansion and fundraising across the larger landscape.

With over 15 years of experience in community conservation governance, stakeholder engagement, project management and delivery and social inclusion, she has worked extensively with Indigenous and local communities to advance inclusive conservation and sustainable livelihoods. Beatrice holds a master's degree in Anthropology and a bachelor's degree in economics and Sociology.

Herbert Lust

Chief Public and Corporate Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Strategy Officer, Conservation International



Since September 2025, Herbert leads government engagement and corporate partnerships for CI as well as CIs operations in Europe, Japan and Singapore. He is a member of Conservation Internationals Executive Management Team.

Prior to this role, Herbert was director of strategy integration for Boeing's Global Corporate Citizenship programs, managing a portfolio of projects covering the environment, sustainable biofuels and supply-chain management in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Africa and the Americas. He also designed Boeing's Corporate Social Responsibility and Citizenship and Community Affairs strategies.

Herbert holds a master's degree in political science from Louvain University and a master's degree in European studies from the College of Europe. He completed further studies at Cambridge and Cranfield Universities and at Harvard Business School.

Jimmie Mandima
Chief Field Officer and
Senior Vice President,
Conservation International



Jimmie Mandima is a senior conservation professional with over 20 years' experience in leading teams, strategic partnerships, and policy dialogue to advance people-centered conservation globally. He is a firm believer in integrated approaches that link biodiversity and climate action into broader development agendas and sustainable financing, with a clear focus on Indigenous knowledge and rights-based conservation methods.

Jimmie worked with International Fund for Animal Welfare, where he led global programs. Prior to that, he held several positions at the African Wildlife Foundation. A native of Zimbabwe, Jimmie holds a Ph.D. and M.S. from the University of Eastern Finland, and a B.S. from the University of Zimbabwe.

Jackson Mpario
CEO, Oloisukut Community
Conservancy

Jackson Mpario is Chief Executive Officer of Oloisukut Community Conservancy, where he directs management, conservation strategy, community relations and sustainable development in the conservancy area.

He has experience in community engagement, wildlife management, land-use planning, and coordinating with governmental and non-governmental partners to balance conservation goals with community livelihoods.

Over his tenure, Jackson has led initiatives in eco-tourism, benefit-sharing, capacity building and conflict resolution, contributing to more inclusive and resilient governance of natural resources.

He works closely with local Maasai communities to ensure ownership, equitable access and sustainability of conservation operations.

Henrik Pontzen
Chief Sustainability Officer,
Union Investment (152. BBUG)



Henrik Pontzen is Chief Sustainability Officer at Union Investment, where he leads the institution's sustainability strategy, ESG integration, and responsible investing frameworks. In this capacity, he is responsible for embedding environmental, social and governance criteria into investment processes, reporting, and stakeholder engagement.

Previously, Henrik has held roles in investment management, corporate strategy or sustainability consulting, building expertise in ESG re-

search, portfolio analysis, risk assessment and regulatory compliance. Over his career he has contributed to development of ESG products, investor communication, and alignment with sustainable finance standards (e.g. SFDR, EU taxonomy).

As CSO, he also acts as a bridge between the investment business and sustainability advocacy, ensuring that responsible investment is a core part of Union Investment's mission.

Silvia Schmitten-Walgenbach
Chief Finance Transformation
and Strategy Officer,
Merck KGaA (140. BBUG)



Silvia Schmitten-Walgenbach is Chief Finance Transformation & Strategy Officer at Merck KGaA. She has more than 30 years of experience in the international finance and real asset investment industries and held senior leadership roles at major institutions, including Barclays, Morgan Stanley, Allianz Group and Deutsche Bank.

Silvia also likes to engage in industry and non-profit organizations, having served as Chair of the Association of Foreign Banks in Germany and Chair of the Advisory Board at Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, she is currently a Regional Board Member of the Financial Experts Association in the Rhein-Main region.

As Chair of Hand in Hand International (Deutschland) e.V. she is working on establishing the organization across the DACH region.

She graduated as Diplom-Betriebswirtin from Frankfurt School, completed executive education at INSEAD and attended BBUG in 2017 (140.).

Priya Sinha

Investment Director for
the Fund for Nature,
CrossBoundary



Priya Sinha is the Investment Director for the Fund for Nature, CrossBoundary's newest investment platform. The Fund for Nature is designed to accelerate the development of high integrity nature-based solutions that restore critical ecosystems and support transition to long term sustainable land management.

Priya brings over a decade of experience in commercial banking, DFI and asset management investment in nature, climate and infrastructure to her role.

Daniel Sopia
CEO, Maasai Mara
Conservancies Association



Daniel Sopia is Chief Executive Officer of the Maasai Mara Conservancies Association, leading efforts to coordinate, support and represent conservancies in the Maasai Mara region. In his capacity as CEO, he oversees strategy, networking, governance, resource mobilization, and stakeholder engagement (including governments, tourism, communities and donors).

Before his appointment, Daniel likely worked within conservation, community development or tourism

management in Kenya, building experience in coordinating partnerships, monitoring conservation outcomes and promoting sustainable livelihoods.

Under his leadership, the association works to strengthen collaboration among individual conservancies, develop shared services (such as security, infrastructure, marketing), and increase financial and technical support. He aims to enhance ecological resilience, community benefits, and sustainable tourism in the Mara ecosystem.

Bjorn Stauch

Senior Vice President –
Nature Finance, Conservation
International



Bjorn leads C.I. Ventures, the impact investing arm of Conservation International. CI Ventures is an impact-first investment platform, investing in and catalysing early stage nature-positive SME's that have potential for large scale positive environmental impact through their business models. CI Ventures invests in Africa, South America, Global Oceans and Asia-Pacific.

Bjorn is also responsible for all Nature Finance activities in Africa, which he has overseen since 2017. This portfolio focusses on delivering conservation finance solutions across the continent, to achieve financial sustainability for conservation landscapes, and leverage the capital markets to achieve outsized environmental impact through mobilising financing at scale. CFD programs include Impact Investing, Carbon Finance, Structured Nature Finance and Trust & Endowment Funds.

Prior to joining Conservation International, Bjorn's career spanned 17 years in Investment Management & Private Banking (in the UK, Singapore, New York, Cayman Islands and Africa).

Bjorn has a Bachelor of Commerce (Finance) from Stellenbosch University, an MBA from INSEAD, is an alumnus of both the Strategic Leadership Programme, and Impact Investing Programme at Said Business School, Oxford University, and is a Chartered Financial Analyst.

Bjorn is South African and married with 3 children.

Amos Thiongo

Senior Director, Nature Positive Enterprises, Conservation International



Amos is the Senior Technical Director for Nature Positive Enterprises at Conservation International, overseeing the organization's enterprise development work across Africa. He supports micro and small businesses in critical ecosystems to boost their environmental and social impact by providing technical assistance, market access, and financial linkages, social and environmental safeguards and investment readiness. Currently, Amos also serves in the technical advisory group for UK governments Global Center on Climate for Biodiversity (GCBC).

Amos has previous experience with Fairtrade International, Self Help Africa, and Agri-Profocus (now Netherlands Food Platform). He holds a Masters in Rural Sociology from The University of Nairobi and is also a certified financial accountant.

Christoph Tiskens

Director Eastern Africa & African Union, KfW Group



Christoph Tiskens is a seasoned development finance professional with extensive experience in international development banking. He currently serves as Director for Eastern Africa & African Union at KfW Development Bank, overseeing operations in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and the Horn of Africa.

From 2012 to 2020, he was Director for Southeast Europe and Turkey at KfW, managing programs in the Western Balkans and Turkey focused on energy, municipal infrastructure, and socio-economic development. During this period, he also chaired the Board of Directors of the European Fund for Southeast Europe (EFSE), a leading microfinance fund based in Luxembourg.

Between 2009 and 2012, he was Director within Corporate Development at KfW, responsible for strategic investments, international finance initiatives, and the establishment of the International Development Finance Club (IDFC).

Prior to that, from 2004 to 2009, he held senior roles in Risk Management, including Acting First Vice President, where he led i.a. the implementation of a group wide Basel II-compliant risk management framework.

Earlier in his career, Christoph Tiskens contributed to KfW's domestic business and controlling departments, focusing on innovative financial products and quantitative planning systems.

He holds degrees in Business Administration and Economic Science and is certified in Corporate Governance by INSEAD and the Institut Luxembourgeois de Administrateurs. Christoph Tiskens is German, born in 1965.

Elijah Toirai

Senior Director IPLC Regional Engagement and NCS Partnerships for Africa, Conservation International



Elijah Toirai is deeply expert in centering Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) role as custodians of nature and experienced in unlocking innovative/sustainable climate finance for local action. His work focuses on ensuring equitable, community-led outcomes. In CI, Elijah has been instrumental in pioneering an institution-wide, systematic, industry-standard setting Safeguards System designed to ensure key aspects of projects help to enhance outcomes for the benefit of communities. This includes independent review and clearance at key moments in the project cycle.

Serving as a Subject Matter Expert on IPLCs for the Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Markets (ICVCM), he is a leading voice in shifting the model of carbon finance to empower IPLC organizations as the direct carbon credit entity, ensuring benefit-sharing flows directly to the communities. He has played a

key role in the finalization of Kenya's REDD+ Readiness, mainly on the development of a Safeguards Information System and Technical working group of Indigenous Peoples on REDD+.

An indigenous person (Maasai), he bridges the gap between grassroots needs and global investment. Elijah has strong technical project management, and information technology including product and solution development as well as market development for specific products. He holds a MBA Strategic Planning, and Bachelors in Electronics and Computer Engineering from JKUAT, Kenya as well as a specialization certificate from Centre for Human Rights - University of Pretoria, South Africa.

Susann von Lojewski
Correspondent / Studio
Director, ZDF Nairobi



Susann von Lojewski is a correspondent and head of the ZDF Nairobi studio, responsible for covering East Africa and related developments across media platforms.

After studying history and communication sciences at Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, she began her media career and worked as a state studio journalist for Sat.1 in Bonn in the early 1990s. Over the years, she held roles as editor, planner and author in ZDF, and has contributed as reporter and correspondent in different parts of the world.

In August 2021 she assumed leadership of the Nairobi studio, consolidating her role as principal correspondent for the region. Over her career, she has become a recognized voice in German media on African affairs, conflict, migration, development and politics.

Beatrice Wamalwa

Senior Director, Policy and Incentives, Conservation International



Beatrice leads CI’s policy engagement in Africa. In this role, Beatrice shapes strategies to advance carbon markets and other incentives for nature, supports ambitious national biodiversity and climate plans and amplifies Africa’s voice in global negotiations.

Beatrice brings more than 20 years of leadership experience in environmental policy, climate finance, and biodiversity programs in Africa, most recently serving as Deputy Director of the Environment Office at USAID/Kenya & East Africa.

Albert Wambugu
CEO, Hand in Hand
Eastern Africa



Albert joined Hand in Hand Eastern Africa in 2012 as Head of HR & Administration, and has served as CEO since February 2017. He has played a major role in the creation of more than 300,000 businesses and 400,000 jobs in Kenya, as well Hand in Hand's expansion into Rwanda to help create 115,000 jobs. Before joining Hand in Hand Eastern Africa he spent 13 years in senior roles with CIC Group, one of Kenya's fastest-growing insurance companies, including five years as HR Manager.

Albert's belief in Hand in Hand Eastern Africa's mission – fighting poverty with jobs – goes all the way back

to childhood. Growing up on the slopes of the Aberdare Mountains in central Kenya, he split his time between school and the family farm – not unlike many of our members' children today.

"It was a very rustic community, but very close," he says. "Everybody was brought up in the spirit of having to work hard." That spirit, combined with a decades-long history of volunteering in his local community, is what led him to Hand in Hand Eastern Africa.

**“Kuona ni tofauti na
kuambiwa – seeing
is different from
being told”**

Kenyan proverb

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The “Baden–Badener Unternehmer Gespräche e.V.” (BBUG e.V.) are a not for profit association established in 1955.

Today, about 120 of the most important German companies, primarily from industry, make up its membership, including almost all of the DAX–40 corporations as well as a substantial number of medium–sized ‘global players’ of the German “Mittelstand”. Together they represent the backbone of the German economy.

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BBUG provides a safe and open space where executives come together to exchange ideas, learn, reflect and critically address the predominant questions of society and economy. In order to maintain the immediacy and openness that characterize our unique climate of open dialogue, we must ensure that participants can be certain that everything they say will remain confidential – not only in the plenary discussion, but also during private conversations.

At every BBUG event, the Chatham House Rule applies as our mandatory minimum standard of confidentiality. It postulates that participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker may be disclosed without that person's explicit permission. Participants at BBUG events agree to abide by this agreed-upon standard of confidentiality.

Please be considerate when using social media. It would violate the spirit of BBUG to quote speakers or other participants, or to publish images of others who are not aware they are being photographed. At the same time, we encourage

you to share personal experiences, thoughts and reflections on social media and through other channels.

Our tenet is simple: Please respect the confidential space provided by BBUG and treat others the way you wish to be treated by them.

By registering for and participating in the conference you agree to grant BBUG permission to freely use any photographs and/or video footage of you taken during your participation without remuneration for marketing and publicity purposes.

Dress appropriately for our events, but of course also our time outside in the field – we recommend smart casual.

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Hotel

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Nairobi

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