



# Summit on ACES and Living Laboratories



## Speakers Biographies



**Omar Daair**, *British High Commissioner to the Republic of Rwanda*

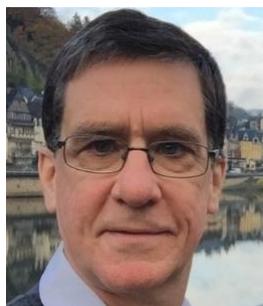
Omar Daair was appointed as the British High Commissioner to Rwanda and non-resident Ambassador to Burundi in January 2021 and started the role in July of the same year. Omar joined the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office in 2002.

His career has largely focused on Africa, including roles as Private Secretary to the Minister for Africa and Deputy Head of Africa Department (East & West), as well as overseas postings to Sudan (2005 to 2008) and South Sudan (2010 to 2011). He has also worked on NATO policy and national security issues, and was posted to Washington, DC (2011 to 2014). Omar’s most recent role before moving to Kigali was as Head of Europe Department, leading EU Exit related development work in London. Omar is a graduate of the London School of Economics and the School of Oriental and African Studies. He also holds a Master of Public Administration from the Wagner School of Public Service at New York University.



**Dr Jeanne d’ Arc Mujawamariya**, *Honourable Minister of Environment for the Government of Rwanda*

Prior to her appointment in November 2019, she served as Ambassador of Rwanda in Russia from 2013 and Rector of Kigali Institute of Science and Technology- KIST from (2011-2013). Dr Mujawamariya Jeanne d’Arc served also as Rwanda’s Minister of Gender and Family Promotion (2008-2011); Minister of Education (2006-2008); Minister of State in Charge of Higher Education (2005-2006) and Minister of State in Charge of Primary and Secondary Education in the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Scientific Research (2003-2005). Minister Jeanne d’Arc Mujawamariya a Phd holder in Physical-Chemistry from the Indian Institute of Technology-IIT Roorkee, India. She is passionate about environment conservation and efficient natural resources development to achieve sustainable development and green growth for Rwanda’s socio-economic transformation.



**Mark Radka**, *Acting Deputy Director, Economy Division, UNEP*

Mark has over 30 years of professional experience in the field of environmental policy and management, most of it with UNEP. Before taking up his current position Mark headed the Economy Division’s Energy and Climate Branch. Prior to that he served for several years in UNEP’s Asia and the Pacific Office, where he managed industrial environmental management projects throughout Asia. Mark is particularly interested in technology transfer and the technology needs of developing countries and was a coordinating lead author of the IPCC Special Report on Methodological and Technological Issues in Technology Transfer.

Before joining UNEP Mark supported domestic and international environmental programmes with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the World Bank, mostly related to the phase-out of Ozone Depleting Substances and climate change. Mark started his career as a U.S. Peace Corp Volunteer in Thailand, where he was assigned to the Local Administration Department of the Thai Government’s Ministry of Interior.



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Mark received a Master of Public Policy degree with a concentration in Environmental and Energy Policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, a M.S. degree in Civil Engineering (with an environmental engineering focus) from the University of California at Berkeley, and a S.B. in Civil Engineering from MIT.



**James Quinault, Director of Environment Strategy, UK Defra**

Prior to his current capacity as Director Environment Strategy, Mr. Quinault was interim Director General for Europe, international and constitution group from November 2020 until June 2021.

Before this James was:

- Interim Director General for Strategy and Change at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs between July and October 2020
- Executive Director of the Implementation Group at the Cabinet Office between 2015 and 2019
- Director of the Government's Office of Cyber Security and Information Assurance, responsible for running the UK's National Cyber Security Programme

He has also worked in a number of government roles, including:

- Head of the HM Treasury team looking after defense and security spending until 2011
- at HM Treasury on environment issues, 'green' taxes and public expenditure planning and control
- in the Economic and Domestic Secretariat in the Cabinet Office
- as private secretary to the Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Civil Service
- on secondment to the Home Office working on the overhaul of policy on criminal justice and immigration issues

James was appointed CBE in The Queen's Birthday Honours 2011.



**Professor Toby Peters, Co-Director, Centre for Sustainable Cooling, UoB**

Professor Toby Peters is an award-winning technology developer and industrial academic with more than 14 years of experience in energy storage /energy systems (incl. policy and regulatory environments); clean cooling/the "cold economy" and the environmental, societal and economic impacts of cooling; novel technologies for refrigeration and cooling and their development and system integration. He was the joint-academic lead for the Doing Cold Smarter Policy Commission (October 2015).

Building on work pioneering the development of the cold economy and clean cold technologies, he has now broadened this out to accelerate transformational innovation to market and improve innovation performance to help meet the world's big social and economic challenges within the limits of our natural resources and time deadlines.



**Brian Holuj**, Programme Management Officer of UNEP United for Efficiency

Brian leads U4E's sustainable cooling portfolio, which partners with over 30 countries to undertake market transformation activities. He oversees a portfolio of over USD 13 million in direct funding, collaboration with the financial institutions to unlock tens of millions in clean energy finance and directs a team of 17 experts. His responsibilities include project management, capacity building, developing guidance and tools, and awareness campaigns. Brian has worked in the sustainability arena over the past 12 years at UNEP and the U.S. Department of Energy after working in aerospace and high-tech industries. He was awarded by the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program for developing the first Model Regulations for Refrigerating Appliances and Room Air Conditioners, overseeing technical assistance for Rwanda's National Cooling Strategy, and helping launch the Cool Coalition. Over the years, he has led a variety of multi-stakeholder initiatives, including the U.S. - China Eco-Partnerships Programme, U.S. - China Energy Efficiency Forum, Mission Innovation Business and Investor Engagement working group, the Better Buildings Alliance, and the Rooftop Unit Air Conditioner Challenge. He is a consulting expert on the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel's Task Force on Energy Efficiency, an advisory body to the Montreal Protocol Parties.



**Professor Judith Evans**, Researcher, LSBU

Judith is a Professor at LSBU. She has 30 years' experience of working on food refrigeration operations throughout the food cold chain. Her main areas of interest are related to efficiency and energy reduction as well as design and performance of refrigeration equipment. Judith works on food refrigeration operations throughout the food cold chain from harvest/slaughter to the consumer. During her career Judith has worked on a number of topics including frozen storage of meat, consumer handling of food and studies to improve the performance of domestic and commercial refrigerators, energy labelling, instrumentation performance, decontamination of food, cook-chill systems, novel refrigeration systems, optimising refrigeration systems and improving performance and temperature control in chilled and frozen storage rooms. Judith's current work revolves around reducing energy use and emissions from the food cold chain, energy storage and optimising food refrigeration processes.



**Dr Natalia Falagan**, Lecturer in Food Science and Technology, CU

Natalia is a Lecturer in Food Science and Technology at Cranfield University investigating the underlying ripening and senescence mechanisms of fresh produce. She has international experience in food production systems through collaboration with private companies and government funded research. Her work is driven by the need to reduce food waste and improve food security, while maintaining the quality and safety of fresh products across the supply chain. Her research aims to discover the reasons behind fruit and vegetable response to supply chain conditions and therefore, design optimal technological solutions to reduce food waste while maintaining nutritional and physiological quality. From this knowledge she has designed innovative storage and packaging solutions. She is a member of the Royal Society of Biology, Institute of Agricultural Engineers, International Society of Horticultural Science, Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and UK Government Scientific advisor in the Food Standards Agency. Dr Falagan has been selected as one of the Top50 Women in Engineering (Engineering heroes) 2021 in the UK.



**Professor Nosa O. Egiebor, DVC, UR**

Prof Nosa O. Egiebor is the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research (DVC-AAR) at UR. He is a Professor of Chemical and Environmental Engineering.

Prof Egiebor previously served as the Provost and Executive Vice President at the State University of New York, College of Environmental science & Forestry. Prof. Egiebor has held faculty and senior academic administration positions in Canada and the United States for over 30 years.

Notable positions include, serving as the U.S. DOE Chair Professor, as the Samuel P. Massie Chair of Excellence in Environmental Engineering with tenure at Tuskegee University, Alabama as well as being Program Director and Vice President for International Education & Research between 2011 and 2014 at Tuskegee University, and Chief International Officer (SIO) and Executive Director of Global Engagement at the University of Mississippi and was a member of U.S. EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) as well as being the recipient of numerous national and international awards for his research and endeavors.

**Professor Tom Ogada, Director, ACTS**



Prof. Ogada has enormous experience from senior management levels in research, university, public and private sector. Prof. Ogada holds an MSc in Mechanical Engineering from the Belarusian Polytechnic, Minsk, USSR (1987), PhD in Chemical Engineering from the Technical University Hamburg, Germany (1995) and MBA in Strategic Management from Moi University, Kenya (2005). He started his career in Moi University, where he worked for 18 years and rose to the position of Associate Professor of Energy and Environmental Engineering in 2000 where he helped to establish MSc and PhD programs in Energy Studies. He was Head of the Department of production engineering for six years (1996-2003) and founder Managing Director of Moi University Holding Limited, a technology transfer arm of the University (2003-2006). From 2006 to 2009, he was the Managing Director of the Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute. Between 2009 and 2011, he joined the National Economic and Social Council, a Kenya government policy advisory body, as an UNDP funded research fellow where he was responsible for the manufacturing sector and the development of the Science, technology and Innovation policy. Parallel to this assignment he was also Advisor to the British Council on a DFID funded project - African Knowledge Transfer Partnership-. Between 2013 and 2017, he was County Minister responsible for Trade, Industrialization and Investment in Homa Bay County. From December 2017, he has been the Chairman of the Kenyan National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI).

**Jimmy Washington, Director, Sustainability and Cold Chain Development Carrier**



Jimmy Washington holds bachelor's degree in Accounting and Finance from Ohio States University and MBA from the North-western University Kellogg School of Management. He is a proven finance and strategy leader, with deep expertise in delivering actionable corporate and product strategies based on data-driven consumer, technical, and business insights.



**Claude Bizimana, Chief Executive Officer, NAEB**

Claude Bizimana is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB), a commercial public institution in Rwanda in charge of exports of agricultural and livestock products. With over 20 years of experience as a lecturer and researcher in one of Rwanda's most prominent academic institutions, Claude Bizimana led different initiatives at national, regional and continental levels, including the country office of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program, the most ambitious and comprehensive agricultural reform effort ever undertaken in Africa made by African Heads of States and Governments. As the CEO of NAEB, Claude Bizimana thrives to establish relations and cooperation with regional and international organisations with the aim of improving operations in the coffee value chain and collaboration among stakeholders, especially those who grow and produce the raw product.



**Eric Trachtenberg, Practice Lead & Senior Director, Land & Agricultural Economy, MCC**

Eric Trachtenberg is the Practice Lead and Senior Director of MCC's Land and Agricultural Economy Practice Group. He currently leads design and oversight of MCC's investments to improve food security and to strengthen land productivity. Trachtenberg has more than 25 years' experience working in international agricultural development and trade.

Before coming to MCC, Trachtenberg established a food and agriculture practice at McLarty Associates, a global strategic advisory firm. At McLarty, he counseled firms, investors, and non-profits on government issues and advocacy, strategic planning, nutrition policy, agricultural production/management, market access, and political and economic risk issues. He also served as a Private Sector Mechanism delegate to the UN Committee on World Food Security.



**Thomas Motmans, Sustainable Energy Finance Specialist, BASE**

Thomas Motmans is a senior sustainable energy finance specialist at BASE with experience in South America (Colombia, Brazil), the Caribbean, Africa (Rwanda, South Africa) and Asia (Laos).

Thomas has experience structuring public/private financial products to scale up investments in sustainable energy, designing and developing tailored risk mitigation mechanisms, implementing these financial mechanisms in emerging markets with key market and non-market stakeholders, as well as performing economic and financial modeling of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

Thomas holds a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from ETH and is currently pursuing a CAS in Sustainable Finance at the University of Zurich.



**Ildephonse Nestor Kirenga, Executive Secretary, NCCR**

**Nestor Ildephonse** is holding a Master's Degree In Microfinance Management, Master's Degree in Business Administration and Bachelor's Degree Of Entrepreneurship with Education, and Certified Public Accountant of Rwanda.

He is an expert in different areas due to the working experience from 2009 to Date, I Joined National Cooperatives Confederation of Rwanda 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021 as Executive Secretary. Before he worked with different banks and companies where he occupied different positions. Other position held: Assistant Lecturer/ Part-timer of Management Accounting,

Public Finance and Taxation and Cooperatives Management at KIBOGORA POLYTECHNIC and Christian University of Rwanda from Nov.2018 to date.



**Nnaemeka Ikegwuonu, CEO, ColdHubs**

Nnaemeka is a farmer, community radio agricultural presenter; Founder/CEO of ColdHubs Limited and Executive Director of Smallholders Foundation Ltd. /Gte. He founded Smallholders Foundation ( [www.smallholdersfoundation.org.ng](http://www.smallholdersfoundation.org.ng) ) in 2003 at the age of 21; the organization uses its Smallholder Farmers Rural Radio (FARM F.M) Network to reach an estimated 250,000 farmers with daily agriculture, environmental management and market access, radio educational messages.

In 2015, he launched ColdHubs ( [www.coldhubs.com](http://www.coldhubs.com) ) a social business that designs, installs and commissions 100% solar powered walk-in cold rooms in farms and marketplaces, to enable smallholder farmers, retailers and wholesalers to store and preserve fresh fruits, vegetables and other perishable food 24/7 extending the shelf life from 2 days to 21 days. ColdHubs aims to eliminate the impact of food spoilage and lack of small-scale post-harvest infrastructure facing 470 million smallholder farmers globally and increase the income of farmers and retailers because, previous losses have been eliminated.



**Juliet Kabera, Director General, REMA**

Juliet is the Director General of the Rwanda Environment Management Authority, to which she was appointed in May 2020. Prior to her appointment, she held the position of Director General of Environment and Climate Change at the Ministry of Environment. Juliet began her career as an Environment Management Officer, at a time when Rwanda was developing much of its forward-looking environmental institutions and policies. As the MP Focal Point then, she was at the forefront of negotiations of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol and took an active role in the drafting and enforcement of different laws such as the 2008 law banning plastic bags in Rwanda and the 2019 law banning single use plastics.



**Dr Guillaume Nyagatare, Acting Principal of CAVM, UR**

Dr Guillaume Nyagatare holds a PhD in Agronomic Sciences from Hohenheim University (Stuttgart, Germany – magna cum laude). He has a large spectrum of experience (both academic and field experience). He joined the higher learning institution since 1997 since, he has occupied several administrative functions in the college of Agriculture, Animal Sciences and veterinary medicine (CAVM). Nowadays is serving as Acting Principal of CAVM which has three campus in three provinces of Rwanda. He believes leadership should be measured by its upliftment of the weak, its capacity to inspire, to mobilize, to unite a [scientific] community behind a common aspiration that transcends selfish interests and promotes togetherness and a strong sense of collective purpose.



**Torben Funder-Kristensen, Head of Public and Industry Affairs, Danfoss**

Torben Funder-Kristensen is the head of public and industry affairs for Danfoss. He is an experienced thought leader in the refrigeration and air conditioning industry. For more than 20 years, he has worked on solutions for sustainable cooling of products, people, and the planet. Since joining Danfoss in 1995, Funder-Kristensen has held several management positions within development of manufacturing processes, materials, and product development of components. He is the author of numerous white papers and patents and holds a M.Sc. and a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the Technical University of Denmark (DTU).



**Harsen Nyambe**, *Head of Division of Sustainable Environment, Africa Union*

Nyambe, is Head of Division at the African Union Commission that is responsible for Environment, Climate Change, Water, Biodiversity, Disaster Risk Reduction, Forestry, Land Management, Meteorology and Wildlife. He has 23 years of professional experience, of which 14 years of his career has been in international organisations covering the Southern African Development Community (SADC) as a Senior Programme Manager responsible for Natural Resources, the Commonwealth Secretariat as Head of Climate Change and the African Union Commission.

Prior to that, he served as a Deputy Director in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry of Namibia. He was also once a Head of the National Remote Sensing Centre in the Government of the Republic of Namibia. Furthermore, he taught Environmental Impact Assessment and Ecology at the University of Namibia. His passion lies in fostering sustainable development through effective management of natural resources and the environment.

**Vincent Gasasira**, *Cold Chain Specialist, Post-Harvest Plus Ltd*



Vincent Gasasira is a passionate Postharvest management trainer. His experience in agriculture ranges for about 8years. He has worked with several NGOs as a project implementer and a consultant.

In the recent years he has worked with the National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB) in Rwanda for 4 years-2years as a Senior Postharvest Specialist in one of the horticulture projects funded by USAID and 2 years as a Cold Chain Specialist in charge of the cold chain for export horticultural produce.

His experience and education background in Food sciences and storage engineering propels him to be passionate about minimizing postharvest losses in agricultural products especially for highly perishable ones.

He is the Founder of Post-Harvest Plus Ltd, a company in its infancy stage aimed at Reducing Food Losses and Food Wastes through capacity building and availing affordable technologies and tools to agricultural value chain actors through innovations.



**Dr Catherine Kilelu**, *Program Lead for the Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security Program, ACTS*

Experienced Researcher and Scientific Coordinator of multistakeholder teams with a demonstrated history of working in the research for development industry. Skilled in Sustainable Development, Biodiversity, Rural Development, Natural Resource Management, and Climate Change. Strong program and project manager with a PhD (Social Science) focused on Agricultural development and innovation from Wageningen University.