Biographies

H.E. Lamin B. Dibba, Minister of Environment, Gambia – also speaking on behalf of Africa Risk Capacity

H.E. Lamin Dibba currently serves as the Minister of Forestry, Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources in the Cabinet of Adama Barrow, the Gambia.

Dr. Elke Löbel, Deputy Director-General, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Germany – Germany’s engagement in various insurance related fora; forecast-based financing; national strategies, especially coherence between DRR strategies and NAPs

Director for displacement and migration; crisis prevention and management, Commissioner for refugee policy. Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Bonn. Elke Löbel was appointed as the BMZ’s commissioner for refugee policy in September 2015. Having first joined the Ministry in 2006, from 2011 to 2015 she was the head of the BMZ’s Middle East division; prior to that she was the country officer for Sri Lanka and Nepal, and a senior policy officer in the budget division and in the division dealing with civil society support (political foundations and churches). Between 2000 and 2006, she was the managing director of the Exposure and Dialogue Programme (EDP) in Bonn, Germany. Elke Löbel studied International Cooperation with Developing Countries at RWTH Aachen University and wrote her doctoral thesis on the socio economic impact of reforms in the mining sector in Bolivia. Between 1996 and 2000, she was a development worker for the German Development Service in Bolivia, gaining first hand practical experience of development cooperation on the ground.
Ms. Tamisha Lee, Member of the World Farmers’ Organisation, WFO – experience from the local level, challenges to access finance and challenges to apply long-term resilience approach in the current business environment/system

Ms. Tamisha Lee is the President of the Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers (JNRWP), member of the World Farmers’ Organisation, WFO. JNRWP is an organization that motivates and empowers rural women involved in farming, to improve their quality of life. She is from the rural farming community of Lennox Bigwoods in Darliston, Westmoreland, Jamaica.

Ms. Lee is a registered Farmer, Founder and Managing Director of A+ Construction and Consultancy Limited. Ms. Lee studied Construction Management at Associates degree level at Hocking College, and Civil Engineering at Bachelor of Science degree level at Ohio University and had training in Project Management from the University of the West Indies Mona. She also participated in a number of online courses in Gender Equality, Climate Change and Sustainable Development. Ms. Lee has been involved in voluntary service for over twenty five (25) years and enjoys providing mentorship and guidance to women and youths where needed. Her interest in farming and construction as career choices emerged from having a mother as a farmer and a father as a contractor.

Mr. Adam Banaszak, EC Committee of the Regions, Vice-President of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Parliament, Poland – experience in Europe on risk financing tools, experience from a local government perspective

Adam Banaszak is Vice President of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Regional Parliament in Poland. He is a member of the Polish Delegation to the Committee of the Regions, a Bureau member of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group in the Committee of the Regions and Group coordinator for the Commission for Natural Resources (NAT). He has been the Committee of the Regions’ rapporteur for the review of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and the Action Plan on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. He has worked in local government as a councillor and financial expert for more than 20 years. He holds degrees in economics and environmental studies from the University of Nicolaus Copernicus (Toruń), the University of Technology and Life Sciences (Bydgoszcz) and The Hague University of Technology.

Ms. Ann Vaughan, Mercy Corps - Head, Advocacy & Influence – Mercy Corps

Ann Vaughan works for Mercy Corps, an international humanitarian and development organization working in over 40 countries. Last year, Mercy Corps helped improve the lives of 19 million people with programs that provide communities in the world’s toughest places with the tools and support they need to transform their own lives. In her current position at Mercy Corps, Ann is the Advocacy & Influence Team Lead for the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance (ZFRA). The Alliance is a consortium of ten organizations from the public and private sectors with a shared vision that floods have no impact on people’s ability to thrive. Mercy Corps is spearheading the “influence and advocacy” workstream of the Alliance that encourages donors and governments to improve national and sub-national policies to improve practice and increase investment for flood resilience. Prior to her time at Mercy Corps, she served for a year in Kandahar City, Afghanistan as a Field Program Officer with
the US Agency for International Development. She also worked as a staffer on Capitol Hill for over 7 years, including as an Appropriations Associate for Congresswoman Nita Lowey where she focused on foreign operations appropriations. Ann has her Masters in International Development Studies/Post-Conflict Reconstruction from George Washington University and served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Nicaragua.