UNEP FI

The United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) is a unique global partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the financial sector.

UNEP FI works closely with nearly 200 financial institutions who are Signatories to the UNEP FI Statements, and a range of partner organizations, to develop and promote linkages between the environment, sustainability and financial performance. Through regional activities, a comprehensive work programme, training programmes and research, UNEP FI carries out its mission to identify, promote, and realise the adoption of best environmental and sustainability practice at all levels of financial institution operations.

The Initiative has established a network of Regional Task Forces to coordinate its activities around the world. The Task Forces further provide an opportunity for local Signatories and other financial institutions to interact and share best practices.

Through its Regional Task Forces, UNEP FI is working with financial institutions throughout the world to support and expand sustainable financial practice. Regional Task Forces’ activities include:

- Awareness-raising and dissemination of UNEP FI’s research and publications
- Capacity-building through workshops and online training courses
- Find out about our Risk Training Workshops and Online Courses
- Exchanging views, ideas and best practice between members and key stakeholders
- Research and development of tools

Website: www.unepfi.org

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SPONSORS

Citibank Kenya

Citibank Kenya is a branch of Citibank NA, New York. Citibank is a part of Citigroup, a financial services organization formed in 1998 when Citibank merged with the Travellers Group. Citibank started operating in 1974 as “The First National Citibank of New York”. Citigroup has operations in over 100 countries around the globe and it employs 268,000 employees in total. Its assets amount to US$ 1.1 trillion.

Citibank Kenya has two branches: a head office at Citibank House in Upperhill, Nairobi, and a Mombasa branch at Citibank House, Nkrumah Road, which was opened on 1st October 1989. As the head office of Citibank East Africa, Citibank Kenya supervises the Citibank branches of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Citibank East Africa is itself integrated in the larger South and East Africa cluster headquartered in Johannesburg, South Africa.
Internal organization: Citibank Kenya is structured around Business segments, Product Groups, Operations and Technology and Staff Units. The Business segments that cater for Citibank Kenya’s diverse customer base are the Corporate Bank responsible for Global Relationship Banking and Top-Tier Local Corporate clients. Citibank Kenya also has a Financial Institutions group which deals with business with banks, insurance companies as well as other non-bank financial institutions.

Citigroup has the ambition to be the most competent, profitable, and innovative financial organization in the world. It is concerned by entrepreneurship encouragement and management initiative and aims at providing its clients with an ever-closer link. The group also seeks to see the improvements generated in one business spread quickly to others on the marketplace and is deploying a constant effort to adapt to both markets and customer needs.


Kenya Bankers’ Association (KBA)

The Kenya Bankers Association results from the merger in 2000 of the 1962-founded Kenya Bankers (Employers) Association, a trade union, and the former Kenya Bankers Association which was founded under the Societies Act.

The most important missions of KBA are the following:
- fostering sound and progressive banking principles and conventions for the industry in Kenya
- managing the public relations aspects of banking
- maintaining constant communications in industrial relations through employees’ representatives and negotiating terms and conditions of employment
- keeping in close cooperation with the Central Bank of Kenya, the Chamber of Commerce, management and educational institutes and universities, the Federation of Kenya Employers and others with the target of meeting the Association's objectives.

The cooperation between KBA and the Central Bank of Kenya is multifaceted. KBA owns the clearing house while the Central Bank of Kenya provides personnel-related services under a service level agreement, and also performs the role of the settlement agent. In 2009, KBA and the Central Bank of Kenya together created the Kenya Credit Information Sharing Initiative (KCISI) in order to enhance cooperation between KBA members on credit data through credit Reference Bureaus licensed by the Central Bank. This process was first implemented the following year. It should help differentiate between low and high risk borrowers and could eventually lead to more favourable terms to low risk borrowers.
SPEAKERS AND TRAINERS

Melissa Makwarimba
UNEP Finance Initiative Tutor

Melissa is an independent sustainability consultant with an MBA advising and mentoring a variety of private and public sector organisations to integrate sustainable development principles into policy, core business/sector strategy and management activity. The majority of these organisations operate in the financial services, infrastructure, extractives and industrial sectors in emerging economies.

She is an IFC approved trainer for their Performance Standards and tutors the UNEP FI's outreach programme on Environmental and Social Risk Assessment (ESRA) for FIs. Melissa has been engaged by FIs to advise on specific deals/investments ranging from project finance, corporate loans to equity finance. She has also advised a variety of FIs on the integration of environmental and social risk management processes into their business practices.

Melissa brings over 16 years of experience in responding to sustainability challenges which are geographically, sector and institutionally diverse. Prior to going independent Melissa headed up the Resource Consulting business unit of Scott Wilson, Africa and in her early career worked as the environmental advisor for a textile company.

Warrick Lee
Environmental project Manager, FirstRand, Sandton, South Africa

Warrick Lee is currently FirstRand Limited’s Environmental Project Manager. His key role is to ensure the implementation of requisite controls and the seamless application of the Equator Principles and the Environmental and Social Risk Assessment (ESRA) process across the FirstRand Group. This involves providing guidance to key individuals across the bank with regard to compliance with technical environmental regulatory requirements. It also involves the implementation of an effective process to track and mitigate environmental and/or social risks. Along with this, Warrick has been extensively involved in the development of Equator/ESRA awareness and advanced training material and the presenting of this training across the bank.

Warrick was previously involved in sustainability assurance and advisory in South Africa at both PricewaterhouseCoopers and KPMG. He also has wide-ranging experience in conducting environmental due diligence assessments on mining and industrial sector companies. Warrick holds a Bachelor of Science Honours in Environmental Science as well as a Bachelor of Commerce Honours in Economics.

Jennifer Karingi
Unit Head, Liability Management Group, Citibank

Jennifer is currently a Vice President and Unit Head within the Corporate Bank at Citi Kenya. She has been with Citi for 10 years. Prior to that she worked with a local Kenyan bank where she was in a Management Trainee program before becoming a Junior Relationship Manager.

She holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree and is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Business Administration with the University of Leicester.