

# PROSPER AFRICA

A U.S. TRADE AND INVESTMENT INITIATIVE



## Prosper Africa Institutional Delegation Trip

*Gaborone, Botswana*

**July 10 - 14, 2023**



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

*This report is made possible by the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) & the Prosper Africa Initiative. The contents of this report are the sole responsibility of Institutional Investor Network (IIN) and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID, Prosper Africa, or the United States government.*



**KHAMA III**

**SEBELE I**

**BATHOEN I**

# ABOUT US



**Prosper Africa** is the U.S. Government initiative to increase two-way trade and investment between the United States and African countries. Through Prosper Africa, the U.S. Government partners with businesses and investors to advance deals, promote market opportunities, and strengthen business and investment climates.

To learn more and connect with Prosper Africa advisors, visit [prosperafrica.gov](https://prosperafrica.gov).



**Institutional Investor Network (IIN)** is a non-profit dedicated to increasing institutional investments in African markets. IIN's mission is to facilitate the exchange of information and education between US institutional investors and African stakeholders to encourage investments in the continent backed by data.

IIN built upon the success of the NASP-USAID Investment Partnership, which ran from 2016-2019, and developed some additions to the educational programming beyond the international investor delegation trips. The additions range from year-round webinars, data collection, domestic events, conference attendance, a dedicated follow-up team, and international investor delegations aimed at dispelling the risk perception sometimes attached to investing in emerging markets, particularly Africa.

IIN has increased awareness of and appetite for investments in Africa and forged enduring relationships between U.S. and African asset allocators and financial sectors.



## ABOUT BOTSWANA

Botswana is an upper-middle-income country with a GDP per capita of USD 6,805 in 2021. The country has achieved sustained economic growth averaging 5% per annum over the past decade. The country's sovereign credit rating is BBB+/A-2. In September 2022, S&P gave Botswana a stable outlook with the expectation that the demand for Botswana's diamonds will remain strong against downside risks presented by the weakening global economic activity.

Botswana has recorded positive economic performance in recent years thanks to solid democratic institutions as well as efficient and prudent economic management of national resources, mainly revenue from diamonds, of which it was the world's second-largest producer in 2021, after Russia. The average economic GDP growth rate was 4.2% between 2012 and 2018, above that of sub-Saharan Africa (3.2%). Botswana's main engine of growth is the mining and processing of diamonds for export (about 90% of exports in 2018, according to the Central Bank).

The Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) was established in 1995 and has 35 listings with an equity market capitalization of \$41 billion in 2018. Botswana has a debt market capitalization of \$1.5 billion with 49 bond issues as of 2019.

Botswana does not have foreign exchange controls or restrictions on capital outflows from financial institutions. Botswana enjoys preferential access to the markets of 14 southern African countries, including South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho, and Swaziland. Botswana is a member of the International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) and therefore accepts binding international arbitration of investment disputes.

Furthermore, the government encourages foreign portfolio investment, although there are limits on foreign ownership in specific sectors. It also embraces establishing new and diverse financial institutions to support increased foreign and domestic investment and to fill existing gaps where finance is not commercially available.

**Sources:** *World Bank, World Economics*

# AGENDA



Each investor delegation is unique because each country offers a different economic outlook and cultural experience. This delegation to Botswana will include the following :

- ✓ Participation in CCA's annual U.S.-Africa Business Summit and a tour of key sites,
- ✓ Building relationships with local and pan-African fund managers attending the CCA conference and participating in the investor pitch sessions, and
- ✓ Engaging with the U.S. Government delegation to understand U.S. trade and investment priorities in the region and learn more about U.S. government resources available to support investors.

## Sunday July 9, 2023

Time	Activity & Location
17:00	Delegates arrive in Gaborone
17:30 - 18:30	Transfer to hotel <i>Hilton Garden Inn</i>

## Monday July 10, 2023

Time	Activity & Location
09:00 - 10:30	Breakfast <i>Hilton Garden Inn</i>
11:00 - 14:00	Tour of Gaborone
14:00 - 14:30	Transfer to hotel <i>Hilton Garden Inn</i>
15:30 - 17:00	Introductions, briefing, and delegation welcome Meet and greet with USG Botswana Economic overview with U.S. Embassy of Botswana <i>Hilton Garden Inn</i>
17:30 - 18:30	Welcome reception and Dinner <i>Hilton Garden Inn</i>

## Tuesday July 11, 2023

Time	Activity & Location
06:00 - 07:00	Breakfast <i>Hilton Garden Inn</i>
07:30 - 13:00	Tour of Gaborone & CCA Official Golf kick off
14:30 - 15:30	Presentation of Pula Fund <i>Central Bank of Botswana</i>
15:45 - 17:00	Transfer Diamond Facility
17:45 - 18:00	Transfer to conference <i>CCA conference site</i>
18:30 - 20:30	US-Africa Business Summit Welcome reception <i>CCA conference site</i>

## Wednesday July 12, 2023

Time	Activity & Location
07:00 - 07:45	Breakfast <i>Hilton Garden Inn</i>
08:00 - 08:15	Transfer to CCA Conference <i>CCA conference site</i>
08:30	CCA Conference <i>CCA conference site</i>
12:15 - 13:45	VIP Lunch and Networking lunch <i>CCA conference site</i>
15:30 - 17:00	Institutional Investors closed-door pitch sessions <i>CCA conference site</i>
17:15	Transfer to hotel <i>Hilton Garden Inn</i>
19:00 - 21:00	Gala Dinner, hosted by Government of Botswana <i>CCA conference site</i>
21:15	Transfer to hotel <i>Hilton Garden Inn</i>

## Thursday July 13, 2023

Time	Activity & Location
07:00 - 09:00	Breakfast <i>Hilton Garden Inn</i>
08:45 - 09:00	Transfer to CCA Conference <i>CCA conference site</i>
09:15 - 10:30	AFCFTA Potential unlocked <i>CCA conference site</i>
10:45 - 12:00	Institutional Investors closed-door pitch sessions <i>CCA conference site</i>
12:00 - 13:30	Networking Lunch <i>CCA conference site</i>
13:45 - 15:00	IIN Advisory Board meeting <i>CCA conference site</i>
15:15 - 17:45	Institutional Investor Roundtable-closed door <i>CCA conference site</i>
17:30 - 18:00	Transfer to hotel <i>Hilton Garden Inn</i>
	Embassy Dinner <i>TBD</i>

## Friday July 14, 2023

Time	Activity & Location
07:30 - 08:00	Breakfast <i>Hilton Garden Inn</i>
08:30	Transfer to CCA Conference <i>CCA conference site</i>
09:00 - 10:15	CCA Conference & Media <i>CCA conference site</i>
14:30 - 15:45	Botswana Innovation Hub <i>Botswana innovation hub</i>
16:15 - 18:00	Tour of Gaborone <i>TBD</i>
18:00 - 18:30	Transfer to hotel <i>Hilton Garden Inn</i>

## Saturday July 15, 2023

Time	Activity & Location
09:00 - 10:30	Breakfast and delegation debrief <i>Hilton Garden Inn</i>
17:30 - 18:30	Transfer to Airport



# INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Over the past decade, the U.S. government has prioritized identifying and facilitating investment opportunities for U.S. institutional investors alongside African institutional capital in key sectors across all asset classes. As Prosper Africa continues to advance capital mobilization and two-way trade and investment between the U.S. and Africa, highlighted below are some of the successful transactions that are a direct result of U.S. government investment:



NYC Board of Education  
Retirement System (BERS)  
Allocated : **\$30 million**



Casey Family program  
Allocated : **\$100 million**



Update : Chicago Teacher's **\$25 million** allocation.  
AFIG Funds has acquired the largest packaging company in Cote D'ivoire, NME from one of the country's leading conglomerates (Groupe Carre D'OR). AFIG innovated by structuring one of the first leverage buyouts in the Francophone zone of Africa with Bridge Bank-Cote D'ivoire and MCB of Mauritius with Norfund as a minority equity co-investor.

# INVESTOR DELEGATION

## BIOGRAPHIES



### **Anthony Giordano**

*Trustee NYC BERS Executive Committee, NYC Teachers Retirement System*

Mayor Eric Adams appointed Anthony "Tony" Giordano to the New York City Public School Board in January 2023. The School Board appointment includes board membership on the \$8 Billion NYC Board of Education Retirement System (BERS). Leveraging his professional experience, Giordano's colleagues elected him to the BERS Executive Committee & the School Board Chair designated Giordano her proxy to the NYC Teachers Retirement System (\$103 Billion). Professionally, Giordano founded Legacy Partners USA, LLC, a full-service business development consultancy in 2014. Prior to launching Legacy Partners, Mr. Giordano had a distinguished twenty-year career on Wall Street, serving as Director of Sales and Marketing at hedge fund of funds, Larch Lane Advisors; Director of Pension Strategies at Credit Suisse USA; and was a senior vice president at Bank of New York affiliate, ConvergEx. Prior to Wall Street, Giordano was a City Hall lobbyist with Montalbano Initiatives, representing the interests of several labor unions and quasi-governmental agencies. Brooklyn College (CUNY) prepared Giordano well for his current role as an education policy maker and fiduciary, as he was elected to 2 consecutive terms as chairperson of the University Student Senate (USS) and student member of the City University of New York Board of Trustees, while earning a BA in Political Science. Giordano currently serves on the board of Bertha Lewis' action tank, The Black Institute and on the Advisory Board of the New American Alliance. Giordano also directed the mentor program while serving the board of tenant advocacy group, Pa'lante Harlem, and is a supporter of Kentucky-based Sparrow Missions, leading missionary teams of Wall Street professionals to Honduras in 2013 and 2014. Tony Giordano is most importantly a proud father and husband. His two undergrad daughters, Kira (22) and Devin (20), are respectively preparing for Law and Med school. Mr. Giordano is married to New York City immigration attorney, Aizhan "Aya Baltabek" Yerezhepova



## Nelson A. Pereira

*Principal, Investment Director – Alternatives, Mercer*

Nelson Pereira is a Principal at Mercer in the GBS Wealth Alternatives group. As an Investment Director for alternatives, he services Mercer's discretionary and advisory U.S. insurance client base, providing private market research and guidance across alternative asset classes. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in economics from the University of Connecticut and a Master of Science in finance from Georgetown University.



## Joseph Boateng,

*Chief Investment Officer, Casey Family Programs*

Joseph Boateng is the Chief Investment Officer (CIO) at Casey Family Programs and joined as Casey's first CIO in 2007. He is responsible for overseeing the foundation's

\$2.2 billion endowment in collaboration with Casey's Board of Trustees. Before joining Casey Family Programs, Mr. Boateng was a member of the Johnson & Johnson Investment Committee, responsible for managing over \$17 billion in employee benefit assets worldwide. Previously, Mr. Boateng was a Managing Consultant at KPMG Consulting, leading major derivatives, financing, and securitization projects. Mr. Boateng spent 13 years with the Xerox Corporation where he was a key member of the Trust Investment Team that managed \$10 billion assets worldwide. Mr. Boateng is a member of the International Accounting Standards Board's Financial Instruments Working Group and FASB/IASB Financial Institutions Advisory Group. He is Chair of the Investment Advisory Committee for the Seattle City Employees' Retirement System and a member of The Seattle Foundation's Investment Committee. He also serves on the Advisory Council for the African Private Equity and Venture Capital Association, the pan-African industry body which promotes and enables private investment in Africa.

Mr. Boateng received a Bachelor of Science from the University of Ghana in 1987 and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1991. He is an alumnus of the Oxford University Said Business School. His professional designations include Chartered Financial Analyst, Certified Public Accountant, Chartered Global Management Accountant, and Personal Financial Specialist.



## April Chan

*Trustee-East Bay Municipal Utility District Board (EBMUD)*

Chan is a Bay Area native and the first Asian American woman to serve on the EBMUD board. In 2014, Chan was recognized by the Filipino Women's Network for her service and leadership in the San Francisco East Bay. In her professional life, Chan worked as a congressional aide with a focus on securing federal funding for infrastructure issues, emergency response, and legislative analysis. Chan also previously served on the Hayward Citizen's Advisory Commission and was a member of EBMUD's inaugural Community Water Academy in 2022. She has a master's degree in public administration from California State University, East Bay.



## Kathy Hahn

*Director at Casey Family Program*

Kathy joined Casey Family Programs in 2017. Prior to joining Casey, Kathy was an Assistant Director on North Carolina Department of State Treasurer's Opportunistic Fixed Income Portfolio and Inflation Sensitive Portfolio. Prior to NC DST, Kathy traded interest rate products at JP Morgan Chase and worked at Lehman Brothers Fixed Income Division. Kathy holds a Bachelor of Science in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an Master of Business Administration from the Wharton School of University of Pennsylvania with a concentration in finance. Kathy is a CFA charter holder.



## Steven Wilkinson

*Trustee, Oakland Police and Fire Retirement System Board and member of Investment and Audit Committees*

Wilkinson Wealth Management was started in January of 2004 as an Independent Advisory Firm to serve The Bay Area Community. Mr. Wilkinson is President of Wilkinson Wealth Management. He is a Registered Representative and Investment Advisory Representative with Western International Securities, member FINRA/SIPC. Mr. Wilkinson has an Master of Business Administration from Harvard Business School and a bachelor's degree in finance from Indiana University's Kelley School of Business.

Mr. Wilkinson began his financial career as a FDIC bank Examiner and in financial services with Morgan Stanley, Smith Barney as a registered representative. He has over 30 years experience in the financial services industry. He is a member of The Court of the Table, a distinguished recognition by the insurance industry's Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT). MDRT recognizes members who demonstrate exceptional professional knowledge, strict ethical conduct and outstanding client service.

He is the Chairman of the Board of the Northern California Small Business Financial Development Corporation ([www.Nor-CalFDC.org](http://www.Nor-CalFDC.org)). A state guarantee loan program that is part of the California Infrastructure Economic Bank ([www.ibank.ca.gov](http://www.ibank.ca.gov)). Mr. Wilkinson was appointed by Oakland Mayor Jean Quan and reappointed by Oakland Mayor Libby Shaaf as a Trustee on the Oakland Police and Fire Retirement System Board. He serves on the Investment and Audit Committees. Mr. Wilkinson is originally from Nashville, Tennessee.



## Courtney Knight

*Treasurer, City of Atlanta, Georgia*

Courtney Knight has been a municipal finance professional for almost 40 years. He has rendered financial advice and investment banking services to state and local governments, their agencies and authorities, higher education, K-12 and charter schools and nonprofit organizations across the United States. Courtney is a widely respected financial advisor and investment banker who, during his career, has completed hundreds of financings ranging from as small as under \$1 million to almost \$4 billion.

In January 2022, Courtney was appointed Treasurer of the City of Atlanta. As the City's Chief of Treasury, Debt and Investments, Courtney heads the team that manages the City's \$6.5 billion debt portfolio including general obligation, water and wastewater and airport revenue bonds as well as other lease and tax increment bonds. His office also governs the use of the City's fiscal portfolio and executes all cash and investment functions. They are responsible for managing the cash flow of all City accounts with deposits, withdrawals and transfers as well as implementing efficient and cost-effective means for collections and payments.

Courtney has long focused on advancing the community and economic development of the communities where he has lived and worked. He currently serves on the GFOA Standing Committee on Economic Development and Capital Planning. Courtney previously served on the board of the Council of Development Finance Agencies and on the Environmental Financial Advisory Board. Nearer to home, Courtney serves on the board of the Development Authority of the Cobb County (Georgia) and heads its Affordable Housing Task Force.

Courtney graduated from Harvard College with a degree cum laude in economics and obtained his Master of Business Administration from the Stanford Graduate School of Business with concentrations in finance and public sector management. Courtney and his wife Daveitta reside in Atlanta, are the proud parents of three adult daughters and have been blessed with two granddaughters, Grace Alaina and Eden Olivia.

# ASSET MANAGERS



## Anthony Griffith

*Managing Director Public Finance Group Global Banking and Markets, Bank of America*

Tony Griffith is an experienced finance professional with over 30 years in the industry. As a Managing Director for the Public Finance Group at BofA Securities, Inc., he engages in a wide variety of financial transactions related to capital markets locally and internationally. In a recent groundbreaking financial deal supported by USAID/Prosper Africa, Tony headed the

team from Bank of America on a housing financing for Caisse Regionale Hypothécaire (CRRH) in West Africa. The financing involved the use of a guaranty from the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) to help originate and refinance mortgages for low and middle-income individuals, through member banks in West Africa. In current and previous roles, Tony has worked as a senior manager and lead financial advisor on numerous projects totaling more than \$60 billion in both tax-exempt and taxable financings. These projects were for various clients, including the District of Columbia (D.C.), Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, the City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and Philadelphia International Airport. Tony holds both a Bachelor of Arts in economics from Williams College and a Master of Business Administration from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.



## Donna Sims Wilson

*Chief Operating Officer of Kah Capital Management and Board Member, FuelCell Energy*

Donna Sims Wilson is currently Chief Operating Officer of Kah Capital Management, an alternative asset management firm, where she serves on the Management Committee and the

Investment and Risk Management Committee and is Chairman of the Valuation Committee. Ms. Sims Wilson co-founded the National Association of Securities Professionals (NASP) Africa Financial Summit in 2015. With subsequent funding from USAID, Mobilizing Institutional Investors to Develop Africa's Infrastructure (MiIDA) was born and has since executed over \$1 billion in African infrastructure investments from U.S. institutions. Her leadership in ideating and launching these successful endeavors served as a precursor to her participation in leading a delegation of U.S. pension funds and foundations to the 2018 G20 Buenos Aires summit to educate global institutional investors on how to generate safe, risk-adjusted returns by investing in African infrastructure. Ms. Sims Wilson also previously served as Chair for the Export-Import Bank of the United States on the Sub-Saharan African Advisory Board.

Ms. Sims Wilson Donna is a frequent speaker at financial service industry events, has testified

before the U.S. Congress on laws relating to diversity and has appeared on CNBC's Squawk Box and C-SPAN discussing issues of diversity, equity, and how diverse populations are faring in the economic recovery. She was named One of the Most Powerful Women in Business by Black Enterprise Magazine and received NASP's coveted Joyce Johnson Award in 2010.

Ms. Sims Wilson is an advocate of diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, and she helps businesses break down demographic, social, and geographic barriers to achieve expanded levels of success. Additionally, she brings extensive corporate governance experience through her international corporate board service, leadership positions with numerous not for profit boards, and working closely with institutional investors and analysts. Ms. Sims Wilson received her Bachelor of Arts in political science from Yale University.



## Papa Madiaw Ndiaye

*Founder and Chief Executive Officer, AFIG Funds*

Papa Madiaw Ndiaye is Founding Partner and Chief Executive Officer of AFIG Funds. AFIG Funds is a Mauritius registered private equity fund management company established in 2005 with its main office in Dakar (Senegal), and additional offices in Johannesburg (South Africa), and Washington D.C. (United States). AFIG Funds' maiden fund,

the Atlantic Coast Regional Fund (ACRF), is a \$122 million regional fund focused on growth equity investments targeting 29 countries in North, East, West, and Central Africa. AFIG Funds has a portfolio of companies operating across a group of countries in sectors ranging from agro-chemicals to automotive assembly and including contract drilling services, financial services, and petroleum products distribution.

Prior to AFIG Funds, Mr. Ndiaye was Investment Director at Emerging Markets Partnership in Washington. He was one of three partners to raise the \$407 million AIG African Infrastructure Fund, which, when launched in 2000, was the largest ever pan-African fund. Before EMP, he held senior responsibilities for the International Finance Corporation's investment activities in financial institutions in Africa between 1996 and 2000 and helped to launch several landmark funds in Africa. Mr. Ndiaye spent the early part of his career at Salomon Brothers and joined JP Morgan's Emerging Markets Group in 1992.

In 1994, he launched JP Morgan's securities trading in Africa and the Middle East. In 2000, Mr. Ndiaye was named Special Advisor for Economic and Financial Affairs to the President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairman of the Senegalese Presidential Economic & Financial Advisory Council. In the same year, he launched MIDROC BVI, a direct investment vehicle for Sheikh Mohammed Al-Amoudi, a lead investor in the AIG African Infrastructure Fund. He serves on the Boards of several African companies and non-profit organizations involved with Africa. He holds a Master of Business Administration from the Wharton School of Business, a Master of Arts in international affairs from the University of Pennsylvania's Lauder Institute, and a Bachelor of Arts in economics from Harvard College. In 2004, he was selected as a "Young Global Leader" by the World Economic Forum of Davos and then as one of the "Frontier 100 CEOs" of the Initiative for Global Development in 2009.



## Amara Sako

*Co-Founder and Partner, Tri-Star Collaborative, LLC*

Mr. Amara Soko Sako is a founding principal of TSC Global, a multi-discipline consultancy firm in Washington D.C. He is also the President of a leading engineering and construction consultancy firm with operations in North

America and Africa. Mr. Sako's background includes experience as a Construction Project Manager for private construction consulting firms, as well as experience working for the Department of Veterans Affairs (Office of Construction and Facilities Management) as a Resident Engineer. Mr. Sako holds a Master of Engineering and a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from the prestigious Clark School of Engineering at the University of Maryland (College Park).



## Alphonse Kouagou

*Immediate past Executive Director, World Bank Group & IIN Advisory Board member*

As an Executive Director at the World Bank Group, Alphonse is responsible for representing the needs of 23 African nations. He is an international development and finance professional with over 30 years of experience across several

sectors. Prior to joining the World Bank, he spent 18 years at the International Finance Corporation (IFC). In his current role as Principal Portfolio Officer with the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Infrastructure Operations Team, he works closely with clients and projects sponsor to establish, maintain and leverage strategic relationships with private sector companies' senior management (CEOs and CFOs) to support their capital investment needs and the overall corporate strategy. Apart from his successful professional career, Alphonse Kouagou is a passionate social entrepreneur. In 1998, he founded a not-for-profit organization, the Benin Education Fund, which provides scholarships and educational support to children in Benin, his native country. Eager for an education, Alphonse walked 20 miles from his village to attend high school. Through hard work and determination, he graduated and pursued higher education in the U.S. Alphonse received his Master of Business Administration from the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland.

# PROSPER AFRICA TEAM



## Jenna Diallo

*Regional Director, Investment Facilitation, Prosper Africa*

Jenna Diallo is Regional Director for Investment Facilitation for Prosper Africa based in Johannesburg. Mrs. Diallo has more than 20 years of experience in international development, with a focus on private sector development, leveraging private

sector investment, and facilitating access to finance. She has worked for USAID in Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, and Uganda. Prior to joining USAID in 2008, Jenna was a Credit Officer at the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Colgate University and a Master of Arts from Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies.



## Shanta Bryant Gyan

*Senior Communications Advisor, Prosper Africa*

Shanta Bryant Gyan is Senior Communications Advisor for the Prosper Africa Secretariat. She is an international communications strategist and professional who leverages

creative, innovative, and strategic communications to bolster private sector engagement in international development for more sustainable results.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in journalism from Boston University and a Master of Arts in international services, with a concentration in international relations from American University.

# IIN TEAM



## Bintou Kabore Zerbo

*Executive Director, Institutional Investor Network*

Bintou is the current interim Executive Director of the Institutional Investor Network, a non-profit organization based in Washington D.C. dedicated to increasing institutional investments into African markets. IIN's mission is to facilitate the exchange of information and education between U.S. institutional investors and African stakeholders to encourage investments to the continent.

She concurrently founded and serves as the Managing Partner for Frontier Bridge Advisory, a U.S.-based global firm providing a range of advisory services to investors, private corporations, and non-profit and governmental institutions. A legal professional by training, she has always had a natural dedication to impact-driven activities across the international trade and development sectors. She is a firm believer in the power that investment and trade can lift developing countries out of poverty and assist them to achieve robust economic growth and sustainable development.

Prior to launching Frontier Bridge Bintou worked with the NASP-USAID investment partnership successfully coordinating the education of institutional investors on investment opportunities in Africa through visits of infrastructure assets on the African continent, and the facilitation of discussions with African stakeholders on the creation of future investment vehicles. The three-year, \$2 million grant-funded program mobilized more than \$1 billion in investment into Africa.

Bintou holds a Juris Doctorate with a concentration in international law from Suffolk University Law School in Boston, MA, and a bachelor's degree in political science from Concordia University in Montreal, Canada.



## Aliya Diakite

*HR and Operations Manager, Institutional Investor Network*

Aliya is the HR and Operations Manager for IIN where her responsibilities include, but are not limited to, recruiting and staffing, performance management, and improvement systems. Aliya develops and manages human resources policies and programs for IIN. With an extensive background in the banking and finance industries, Aliya previously worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers as an IT audit professional in their

Virginia and Paris, France, offices supporting financial audit teams. She is a dynamic and culturally sensitive team leader with skills in human resource management as well as performance and operation management. Aliya is an overall go-getter who faces challenges head-on and is adept at juggling multiple tasks at once. Native of Burkina Faso, West Africa, Aliya received a Master of Science in international HR and performance management from SKEMA Business School in Paris, France and a Bachelor of Science in information systems from the University of Maryland, College Park.



## Edith Venter

*IIN Event Coordinator/CEO, Edith Venter Promotions*

Edith Venter traded in her social butterfly image and her obligations as an executive wife, for a high-tech laptop, and she is taking the business world by storm. The launch of Edith Venter Promotions has rocketed her into the spotlight more than ever before. She is proud that Edith Venter Promotions has reached the milestone of being in business for 20 years.

Born and bred in Johannesburg, Edith lived in London before returning to South Africa.

Edith has long supported many charity organizations. Utilizing her fundraising abilities on behalf of the Cancer Association, she was very proud to be able to hand over a 2 million Rand check for use in several sectors of the fight against cancer, as well as the Children's Care Ward of the Pretoria Academic Hospital. Apart from being a Board Member of Reach for Recovery, she launched Playing for Pink Ladies Invitational Polo in 2015, which has become an annual lifestyle event that helps raise funding for breast cancer.

Edith is the Chairperson of UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) Womens' Business Network, which launched in 2018. This Network helps raise funding for education for women and children in refugee camps all around Africa. Having long moved in the country's highest social circles, counting local and international diplomats, industrial magnates and politicians among her many friends, Edith remains in tremendous demand for business and charity events.

Added to all the above, Edith was asked by Oshun Publishers to write a book on her life, which was published in October 2008 and is a frank and honest look at her life – with all the ups and downs. "The Art of Good Living" has been very well received throughout the country and is going from strength to strength.



## Hellen Fissihale

*Institutional Investor Network Strategic Partnerships / CEO, F3 Global*

Hellen Fissihale is an entrepreneur with a passion for emerging markets, particularly in Africa. Born in Sudan and raised in Dallas, Texas, she is an international consulting professional who has worked globally in various strategic roles. She is the founder and CEO of F3 Global Advisory Group LLC, a Washington, D.C.-based firm that helps clients grow and

scale their organizations through customized services focused on capacity building, strategic planning, and market entry. Hellen has extensive experience in health, agriculture, and entrepreneurship, working with clients from both the private and public sectors in the U.S., Africa, Caribbean, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East. Some of her notable clients include Bahamas Chamber of Commerce, Kenya Investment Authority, U.S. Agency for Global Media, and Johnson & Johnson. Hellen is known for her work in emerging markets, particularly through partnerships with stakeholders in various countries.

She is dedicated to supporting the African diaspora by fostering connections between Africa and international actors and markets. Hellen also provides support to millennial entrepreneurs in Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Nigeria through fundraising, investing, and connecting partners. She has served as a City Commissioner for the D.C. Mayor's Office on African Affairs and is currently a board member at Grid2Grid, as well as a mentor for youth and Mandela Yali Fellows.

# INDUSTRY PARTNERS



Corporate Council on Africa is the essential connection to business in Africa. Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) is the leading U.S. business association focused solely on connecting business interests in Africa. Established in 1993 to promote business and investment between the United States and the nations of Africa, CCA serves as a neutral, trusted intermediary connecting its member firms with the essential government and business leaders they need to do business and succeed in Africa. CCA uniquely represents a broad cross section of member companies from small and medium size businesses to multinationals as well as U.S. and African firms. Our members are invested in Africa's most promising sectors including agribusiness, energy, finance, health, ICT, infrastructure, security, tourism and trade facilitation.

For more information visit: [www.corporatecouncilonafrika.com](http://www.corporatecouncilonafrika.com)



**THE WORLD BANK** The World Bank Group works in every major area of development. They provide a wide array of financial products and technical assistance, and help countries share and apply innovative knowledge and solutions to the challenges they face. The Bank works with 189 member countries, with staff and offices in over 130 locations. The World Bank Group is unique global partnership of five institutions working to reduce poverty and build shared prosperity in developing countries.

For more information, visit: [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)



**HAMMER TECHNOLOGY HOLDINGS** Hammer Technology Holdings, is a mobile-first digital technology product, powering stored-value digital services for businesses and consumers, including those previously left outside the digital revolution. HammerPay was developed to scale a highly attractive digital cash/cashless solution to be deployed along with partners around the world, delivering expertise for both developed and developing economies. They recognize that emerging markets have a strong cashless opportunity, especially across the continent of Africa, which represents a key opportunity and is well aligned with our mission to drive new revenue for partner banks and merchants alike.

For more information, visit: [www.hammerpay.com](http://www.hammerpay.com)



**TSC Global** TSC Global is an international consultancy firm in the fields of engineering and technical services. They provide a wide range of technical services in the field of engineering, energy, infrastructure, geoscience, environmental studies, IT, and construction material. TSC Global has reliable and professional consultancy services that are based on decades worth of knowledge and experience.

For more information, visit: [www.tscglobal.co](http://www.tscglobal.co)



Advanced Finance & Investment Group (“AFIG Funds”) is a leading private equity fund management company founded in 2006 and making growth equity investments across diverse West, Central, and East African sectors. The Company has an investment philosophy anchored on funding and supporting local entrepreneurs as well as developing African companies into regional and global leaders. AFIG Funds is incorporated in Mauritius, with its main office in Dakar. AFIG Funds’ regional presence places it at the heart of its markets.

For more information, visit: [www.afigfunds.com](http://www.afigfunds.com)



**LILIUM CAPITAL** Liliium capital specializes in standard financial inter-mediation seeking to match international investor risk appetite with domestic funding needs in frontier markets, in terms of the principal components of the value chain - originating, structuring and distributing frontier market risk transactions.

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