

# Media and Journalism Days in Africa 2020

## Geneva – Switzerland, 12-16 October



Africa 21  
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## Albert Oppong-Ansah

Development, environment and science journalist working as a correspondent for the Inter Press Service (IPS) as well as the Ghana News Agency (GNA). Albert was as a finalist in the 2019-Africa Science Desk Journalism Award by African Academy of Sciences, winner-2018-Best Environmental Journalist by the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA) and winner-2012 Best Human Rights Journalist by GJA. The United Nations Conventions on Biological Diversity in 2018 acknowledged field pictures taken by Albert on the regeneration of desert land in the Upper East Region of Ghana and these were published in the 25 Years of Biological Diversity Celebration catalogue. Additionally, his work was exhibited as case studies of biodiversity successes alongside photography from 30 different countries at the United Nations General Assembly in New York. In 2014, he was awarded a full scholarship to Wolfson Press Fellowship, Wolfson College, University of Cambridge where he developed a journalism-reporting manual on the environment.





## Asmaa Botmi-Clarke

journalist based in Durban, South Africa for 11 years, Asmaa works as a TV videographer and producer for AFP and VOA Africa. During this period she has covered international events such as the Football World Cup in 2010, COP 17 in 2011, the BRICS Summit 2013 and the 21<sup>st</sup> AIDS Conference in Durban in 2016. In addition to reporting on diverse social and economic issues, Asmaa believes in the importance of reporting on climate change and its associated challenges both in Africa as well as around the world.





## Sophie Mbugua

Kenyan Independent environmental journalist reporting on climate change, and sustainability across sub-Saharan Africa. For the last seven years she has been published by the Humanitarian, Reuters Thomson Foundation, News Deeply, AAAS Science, Deutsch Welle (DW), Radio France International (RFI), Huffpost, Scidev.net, Mail&Guardian, the BBC Science in Action, Mongabay, New African, and Shout Africa. Locally by the Daily Nation, the East African and the Star newspaper. Sophie has reported on the conferences of the parties since the 21st conference in Paris and has worked with the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) on Climate change to organize their media coverage during the COP. She has also worked with Power Shift Africa an African think tank on climate change and energy policies, organizing its media coverage during the 2019 UNDG Climate summit in New York and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report on ocean and cryosphere report.

## Ayoola A. Kassim

The face and producer of Earthfile, Channels Television's awarding winning Environment Programme, Ayoola is a 2018 Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue fellow, the Climate Change Media Partnership 2018 Fellow and a Winner, Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology 2019 Award. Ayoola has covered news event including the COP21, the Inaugural UN Environment Assembly and the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Brazil. In addition to covering the African Green Revolution Forum for several years, in 2014 she covered the Climate summit, in 2008 she reported from Bakassi on the indigenes' protest of the handover of the area to Cameroon. Ayoola is the Head of Programms/ Coordinating Producer at Channels Television working with more than 20 producers. Before now, Ayoola was the producer of The Children's Club. The program that got Channels Television the nomination for the International Emmy Award [iEMMY] in the UNICEF special award category in 2002.







## Chimwemwe Njoloma

A broadcast and print journalist with over 10 years working experience in media and public speaking. Chimwemwe's career started in 2007, working as an intern for Malawi News Agency (MANA) developing news ideas, writing stories and editing stories from other districts sent to the region office. Until March 2013, she was a Sub Editor at Maziko Radio Station. Her main achievement at Maziko was to revamp the News and Current Affairs Department by making sure that it was operational. While there, she specified on women programs, covering typical rural challenges that women face contributing to domestic violence. She has worked as a journalist in various media institutions and positions rising from a junior reporter to District Information Officer with experience in both print and radio production. She is currently working for MANA as a District Information Officer for the country's capital city Lilongwe, a position she has held since April 2013.



## Violet Nakamba Mengo

Senior Journalist on the features desk at the Zambia Daily Mail. She is an award-winning Journalist with experience across the African continent. Among the awards include the COMESA Media Awards 2014 Best Print features, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), Climate Change Best Online Feature Award 2015. At the national level, her awards include the Best Climate Change Print Feature Journalists from 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively. She has also received accolades from local institutions in Zambia for her excellence in reporting environmental related issues. Violet has also reported internationally on climate change issues at the United Nations level and has attended the UN Climate Change Summit from 2009 in Copenhagen, 2011 in Durban, 2015 in Warsaw, Poland and 2017 in Morocco.







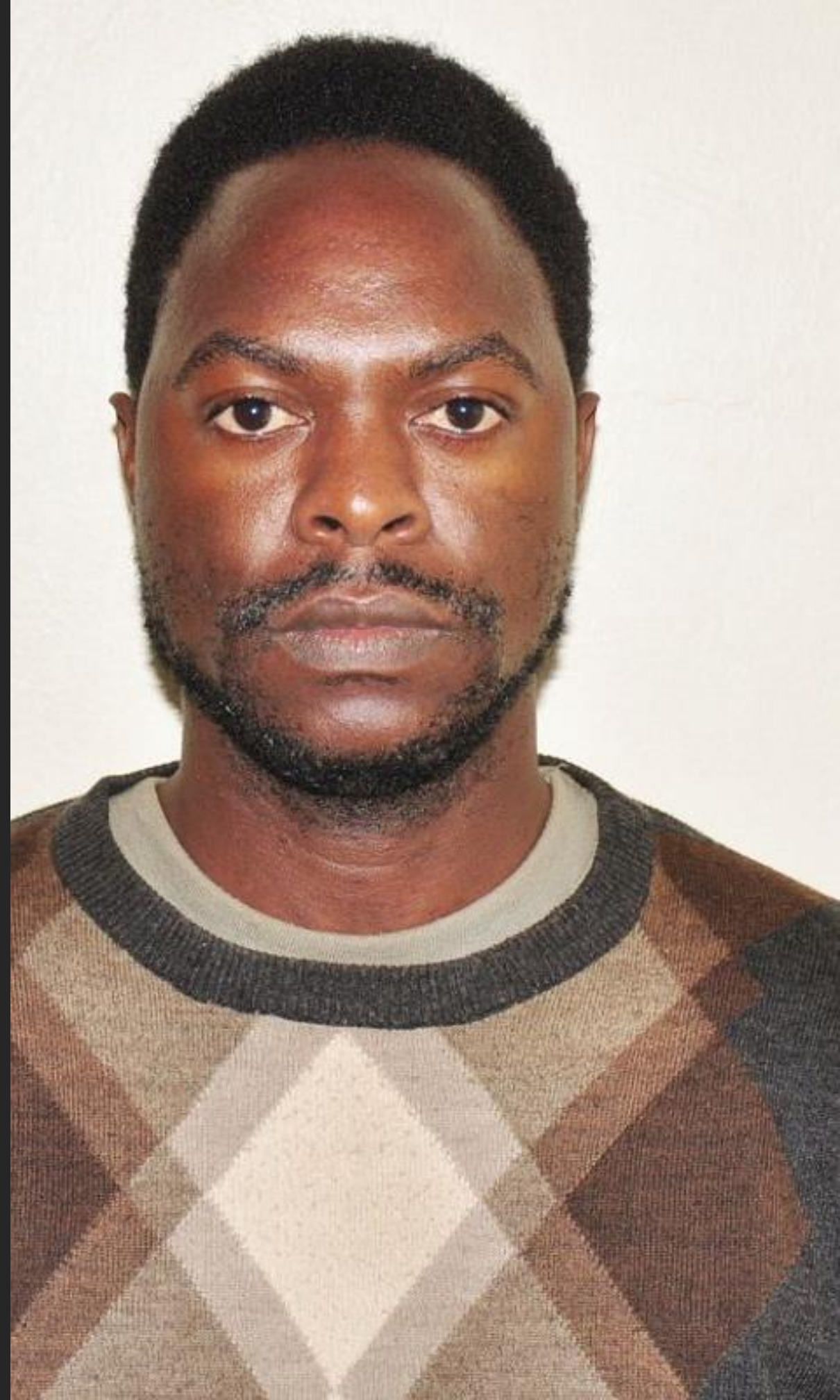
## Corbin August

News specialist for the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) since March 2015). He is based at the SABC's Sea Point office, in Cape Town, South Africa. He performs various roles within the SABC's News Department, which include radio reporter, bulletin writer for radio news, TV reporter, camera operator, video editor as well as digital news journalist. Prior to working at the SABC, he worked as a newspaper writer for a year at a labour Non-Governmental Organisation, known as Workers' World Media Productions. The organisation focussed on issues which affected the working and living conditions of workers who live mostly in impoverished communities.



## Davis Buyondo

Freelance journalist, audio producer, mentor and digital safety trainer based in Uganda. He is correspondent for the New Vision newspaper and Uganda Radio Network (News agency) in the southern region. His humble background inspires him to focus his writing on underreported and unreported issues that affect a common man. He has written about climate change, agriculture, human trafficking, illicit finance/money laundering, smuggling, wildlife conservation, poverty, child abuse, domestic violence, social injustices and cross-border crimes. He is a fellow of Thompson Reuters Foundation (Illicit Finance/Money Laundering) Johannesburg –SA (October 2019), World Federation Of Science Journalists (WFSJ) - Infectious Disease Coverage (October 2016) and BBC World Service Trust (2009). His works have been published in the New Vision Newspaper, the Red Pepper publication, Uganda Radio Network (News Agency website) and [www.theeyewitnessug.com](http://www.theeyewitnessug.com).





## Jenifer Julius Gilla

Senior reporter at the Guardian Limited reporting on climate change stories with a background and trainings in Germany and Ghana. She has been writing feature stories on Climate Change, women and community development for six years, with an interest in environmentally friendly agriculture.





## Marwa Tawfik

Journalist in Al Ahram newspaper, regarded as the oldest and most prestigious paper in the Middle East, published for almost 150 years consecutively. Since 2000, Marwa has reported on African affairs with a special focus on environmental issues. She participates actively in discussions on water security and the environment and most recently visited Zimbabwe for the sixth session of economic committee for Africa on sustainable development. Marwa is recognized as the first woman to hold leadership positions in the newspaper and is also the in-house specialist on African issues. In her role, she has interviewed many African leaders about the Nile and has received several awards in the Egyptian press for best interviews including with high level stakeholders like the Presidents of Uganda and Ethiopia and Eritrea.







## Justus Wanzala

Science and environment Journalist working at the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (Television and Radio) as an editor/Reporter, specializing on climate change and sustainable development. Justus is a contributing Author to the Inter Press Services News Agency (IPS), Good Governance Africa, The Thomson Reuter Foundation AlterNet page, the Intellectual Property Watch, The International Press Syndicate and The Spore Magazine. He has also contributed articles to Research Africa a continental science policy magazine based in Cape Town, South Africa where he completed a nine-month fellowship through sponsorship from Canada's International Development Research Centre. He is one of the founding members of the Kenya Environment and Science Journalists Association (KENSJA). He has been awarded various fellowships in science and environment reporting including covering the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Copenhagen, Denmark. He was also a member of the first intake of African and Arab science Journalists in a two-year-long international mentoring program beginning in 2006 by the World Federation of Science Journalists.



## Eden Berhane Hailu

Ethiopian documentary filmmaker, television host and Producer, best known for her work on national advocacy on environment and promotional Television programs. Eden works with the Ethiopian Broadcasting Service (abbreviated as EBS TV) and Pesacheck; a factchecking information website. She has enormous broadcast experience working as reporter on the only National television station /back 2005 ETV/ for five years and running the longest TV show/ eight years/ as producer and host on the first private television station/ Ebs Tv/. She won the 2019 Social Enterprise journalist Award; for her Executive Producer work of 'Semonun Addis' show on EBS TV channel. She won this award for the exemplary programs she produced on the show with regards to why and how Addis should recycle plastic bottles and the amazing story of Tesfa Creative Craft workers. She was also nominated by United States Department to participate on International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) 2019 for her work on promoting community development programs.







## Lominda Afedraru

Freelance science journalist based in Uganda's capital city Kampala attached to Monitor Publications Ltd. She specializes in investigative science journalism focusing on agricultural science and climate change and publishes her work in Monitor Newspaper (Seeds of Gold magazine) which is part of the Nation Media Group with headquarters in Nairobi Kenya. Lominda writes science related stories in the area of health, environment, ICT, Energy and Marine science. She is a Fellow of the World Federation of Science Journalists where she was honored with a Higher Diploma in Science Journalism under the Sjcoop program in 2010. She is also a fellow of Biosciences for Farming in Africa (B4FA) where she undertook two years training in agricultural science. She was honored with a certificate by University of Cambridge and awarded as the best Science Journalism reporter during the graduation.





## Mantoe Phakathi

Freelance journalist with over 18 years of experience, 16 of which have been spent fulltime with The Nation Magazine in Eswatini. Although she covers various issues at the magazine, she is a development journalist with a strong focus on climate change. She later established the development features desk where she developed her passion for climate change news. Mantoe has acquired an MSc in Climate Change, Development and Policy from the University of Sussex in the UK. While in the UK, she freelanced for Climate Home, a non-profit online news outlet that focuses on climate change. Mantoe has written for IPS News and Mongabay News. She is also a communication consultant, working on climate change projects and training journalists on climate change reporting in Eswatini and other countries in Southern Africa.



## Bai-Bai Sesay

Current Managing Editor of the Independent Observer newspaper after serving as Deputy Editor from mid-2002-2008. From 2002-2008, he was responsible for the newspaper's day to day administration with many years of experience in the field of journalism both locally and internationally. He joined Independent Observer newspaper from the Eastern Post newspaper, a regional newspaper based in the eastern part of Sierra Leone. He is also the editor of the Expo Times online. He is also the managing editor of the Sierra Update newspaper. Sesay is also working for international media outlets such as the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) based in Ghana, Internews Agency in the United States of America (USA) and Expo Times newspaper publish online. He is a member of the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ) and several international organizations including the Society for Environmental Journalists based in the United States of America (USA) and member of the Center for International Media Ethics (CIME).







## Shola Lawal

Lagos based freelance journalist writing for international platforms like the Mail & Guardian, The New York Times and the Guardian. Her work focuses on development issues, climate and the environment. Lawal has reported from Ghana, Togo, Finland and from the Nigerian/Cameroonian border. Her reporting calls attention to stories that deeply affect people and the environment: Her stories have taken her to volatile oil fields in Nigeria's Niger Delta, endangered forests in Ghana and the troubled streets of Lomé, Togo. Most recently, she covered climate change for the New York Times from the company's New York headquarters. Lawal is also a filmmaker and has produced documentaries independently and for platforms like Al Jazeera and the BBC. Lawal is currently working on a documentary film that chronicles the lives of indigenous faith believers in Nigeria, and the discriminatory attitudes they face. Lawal previously worked as a video producer with Zikoko where she helped start a video department. In 2019, Lawal was awarded the Future Award Africa Prize for Journalism and was named the Elizabeth Neuffer Fellow by the International Women's Media Foundation.

# Sharon Tshipa

Multimedia freelance journalist, fiction writer and development practitioner based in Gaborone, Botswana. Sharon contributes for the BBC Future Planet, Deutsche Welle Africalink Radio, Greenpeace International, Xinhua News Agency and SOPA Images. She periodically works with the Botswana Guardian, Mmegi Newspaper, Watchdog Uganda and News Day Zimbabwe. She has freelanced for Agence France Presse (AFP) based in Johannesburg & Paris, and Juka Africa Agency based in DR Congo as a videographer. Other outlets are Malnutrition Deeply based in New York, Global Sisters Report based in Israel, Devex based in Washington DC and Africa Insight based in Kenya. Locally she has done work for the Teacher's Magazine, Weekend Post and Global Post. In October 2019, Tshipa participated in the African Women's Development Fund's African Women Writers Residency in Ghana. Tshipa is also a Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue (BETD) 2019 Media Fellow, a Climate Tracker UNFCCC COP24 Fellow, and a 2018 African Students for Liberty Writing Program Fellow. She is a 2018 Forest Conservation Botswana Media Award Winner. Her interest in climate change issues saw her become Climate Tracker's ILNAMIQUI Photo Book Project 2017 contributor.





# Samuel Hinneh

Freelance journalist for SciDev.Net, UK, a leading source of reliable and authoritative news which covers a range of topics from science, and technology, to global development. In addition, he works as a consultant (senior reporter) for Allied News Limited as a full-time journalist, a publisher for the Daily Dispatch Newspaper, one of the leading political and research-based newspapers in Ghana. As a senior reporter, he primarily covers development issues including health and the environment. In addition, Samuel acts as a columnist/freelancer for online portals in Ghana including Modernghana.com among others. In 2013, he received the Netherlands Fellowship Programme to study International Communication, Journalism Specialization at the Christian University of Applied Science (CHE), Ede, the Netherlands. Samuel has won media fellowships such as Biosciences for Farming in Africa (B4FA) media fellowship programme, and the Africa Means Business Fellowship. He also has covered numerous international conferences including the 3rd UN Financing for Development Conference 2015 in Ethiopia, G20 Leaders 2014 Summit in Australia, World Food Prize and Borlaug Dialogue 2013 in USA, and the Safety 2012 World Conference - 11th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion.



## Kennedy Nyavaya

Award-winning journalist who works for one of the biggest private media companies in Zimbabwe, Alpha Media Holdings. His stories have been published in AMH's three flagships: NewsDay, The Standard and Zimbabwe Independent as well as several foreign platforms. He has a passion to catalyse informed solutions in society through enlightening the masses. Throughout his career he has travelled to different parts of the world on duty and has amplified stories on vulnerable populations, the environment and socio-political topics among others. With a firm belief that climate change is the greatest threat to mankind's existence, he has also developed zeal to become an instrumental climate change activist. It is therefore in the bid to ensure mitigation and adaption to the effects of the CC phenomenon, particularly on vulnerable populations, that he has been on an advocacy drive for environmentally friendly activities through radio programs on local radio stations as well as articles in newspapers and social media.







## Ayele Addis Ambelu

journalist, Radio and TV program Producer on climate change issue in 24 radio station. He is founder of climate change bit reporter's department in 24 radio, 1 state media and 1 influential newspaper in the Ethiopian Mass Media Association, Ethiopia. He has established climate issue media departments and established a specialization in education on climate and environment journalism in Ethiopian universities. Ayele has received an award from the Ethiopian Minister of Information for this innovative work. He has also established the media and climate research workshop in Africa news channel office, encouraging Journalists and rewarding the best media in reporting on climate change. He is Author of the climate, environment reporting guideline on the issue of Africa Amharic language hand book for journalists (2018); Art of Journalism in story of climate (2015) in Amharic language pioneer books in the field, Agenda Setting and News Framing in climate issue analysis of African media and Europe media published in 2015.