

Funding Science for a Pollution-free World: How Africa Can Close the Science-Funding Gap

The Belmont Forum / START International

The majority of African countries are urbanizing and rapidly industrializing with unprecedented environmental impact and threats to long term sustainable development goals. The Belmont community will discuss how to promote investment in research to help countries go green and achieve the SDGs.

Established in 2009, the **Belmont Forum** is a partnership of funding organizations, international science councils, and regional consortia committed to the advancement of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary science.

Forum operations are guided by the Belmont Challenge, a vision document that encourages:

International transdisciplinary research providing knowledge for understanding, mitigating and adapting to global environmental change.

The forum aims to mobilize international resources at a scale that matches the challenge from global environmental change, in order to catalyze delivery of the environmental science-derived solutions that society needs.



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**When: Saturday 2 December
09:00-11:00**

Panel discussion:

- Ibrahim Thiaw (Opening statement)
- Cheikh Mbow (Moderator)
- Fatima Denton (Key note speaker)
- Erica Key (Panelist)
- Nicholas Ozor (Panelist)
- Maurice Makoloo (Panelist)

Panel discussion



Ibrahim Thiaw is the Deputy Executive Director for the United Nations Environment Programme and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations. He has served in this position since his appointment by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in August 2013. Mr. Thiaw plays a critical role in providing leadership and shaping the strategic vision and direction of the organization. He provides direct oversight to the development of the programme of work and plays a critical role in the implementation of UNEP's mandate and management of the organization, as



Cheikh Mbow is the Executive Director of START-International in Washington; Adjunct Professor at Michigan State University, Forestry and Coordinating Lead Author in IPCC. He has been a Senior Scientist at the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) and served in Scientific Committees such as the Global Land Project (2004–2010); IGBP from 2012–2014 and Future Earth (2013–2015). Mbow works on research and capacity building on land resource management in developing countries.



Fatima Denton is the Director of a natural resource management Division (Special Initiatives Division), which is principally concerned with different forms of production and natural capital, their policy implications and their interactions with sustainable development as well as science, technology and innovation at the UN Economic Commission for Africa. Prior to this, she directed and managed the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC).



Erica Key joined the Belmont Forum as Executive Director of the Secretariat in June 2015. She leads membership and strategic development for the Belmont Forum, building connections between funders and organizations invested in global change research. She forges these new connections to ensure that the Belmont Forum Challenge – which focuses on advancement of interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and multilateral scientific research to inform human action– is met and the



Nicholas Ozor is the Executive Director of the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS), a transdisciplinary network of researchers, policymakers, private sector actors, and civil society actors promoting the generation, dissemination, use and mastery of Science, Technology and Innovations (STI) for Africa's sustainable development with coverage in 30 countries (27 in Africa and three Diaspora chapters in the Australia, United States, and United Kingdom). Dr Ozor is a Commonwealth Scholar and leads many research projects bordering on STI.



Maurice Makoloo is the foundation's representative in Eastern Africa, overseeing all grant making in the region from Ford's office in Nairobi. Maurice has worked to advance progressive reforms and secure rights and opportunities for all people in the region. His priorities have encompassed strengthening democracy and the efficacy of local civic organizations; addressing gender inequalities, particularly pertaining to low-income women; improving livelihood opportunities for rural and urban poor people, including addressing disparities in land control; and promoting open