

A stylized map of East Africa is positioned in the upper half of the page. The landmass is colored in a light teal or mint green, with thin white lines delineating the borders of the various countries. This map is set against a vibrant yellow background that features a series of horizontal, slightly wavy lines, creating a textured, layered effect. The entire composition is framed by a green border at the top and bottom, and a pink-to-white gradient background on the right side.

EAST- AFRICAN MEDIA LAB COLLABORATION 2017

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The East African Media Lab program is a collaboration between icebauhaus (Germany) and iceaddis (Ethiopia) and was made possible with funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

EDITORIAL

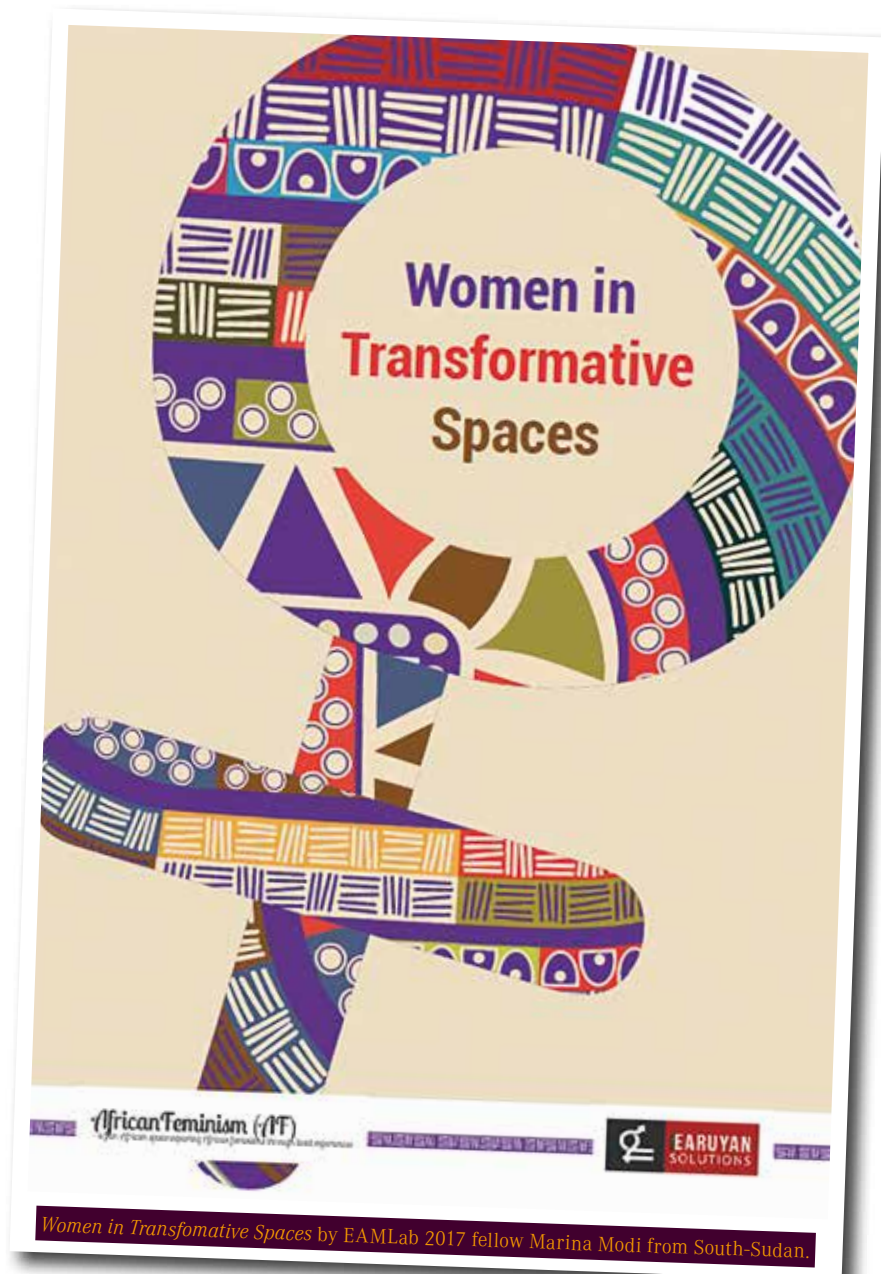
When icebauhaus asked us at iceaddis to partner with them on an East African fellowship program for media professionals, we were excited at the opportunity to be involved in a project focused on storytelling and cross border collaboration. We were particularly eager to work in media, a realm that we have worked in before and had been planning to make a larger part of our overall portfolio. The idea behind the East African Media Lab (EAMLab 2017) was to create a space for networking and collaboration between East African media, culture and innovation centers and East African media professionals, innovators and storytellers through a short term residency program.

From the very beginning of the project, we have been on an educational journey into the East African media and storytelling landscape. Our first task was to find partner organizations who would act as hosts and storytellers who would act as fellows. We were extremely lucky to find and partner with organizations doing phenomenal work in advocacy, digital media storytelling, feminist engagement, cultural activism, technological innovations, and entrepreneurship. We were equally fortunate to find photographers, filmmakers, researchers, digital innovators, and writers to join the fellowship

cohort. At the end of the preparation phase of the project, we ended up with ten fellows and nine host organizations from all over East Africa (and a couple outside of the region), including Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somaliland, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

To kick off the program, we had the pleasure of hosting a welcoming event for the ten fellows at iceaddis in September 2017. Meeting the fellows, watching them meet each other, hearing and engaging in conversations and debates, eating and laughing with them, was not only inspiring, it was also a lot of fun. I think we knew at that point that these diverse individuals from different countries and distinct backgrounds would become a collective working together to strengthen media systems on the continent.

When the welcoming event ended and everybody went their separate ways, the residency programs began. Over the next couple of months, the fellows began and completed their residency programs in their host countries. They worked on projects ranging from a multimedia exploration of the arms trade in Uganda to a feminist based creative writing workshop in Tanzania, a research project on the ICT4Ag community in Ethiopia



to a photography exhibit exploring the lives of South Sudanese in Sudan.

When the residencies finished, we held the programs end event in Kigali hosted by one of our partner organizations, Impact Hub Kigali. There, we were able to welcome representatives from the host organizations along with the fellows. The fellows presented their projects to their cohort, received feedback, shared digital media tools and resources, and discussed plans for future collaborations. One of our goals for the EAMLab 2017 program was to initiate collaborative media projects in the hopes that the networks created through the program, between and amongst the fellows and host organizations, would help build a community dedicated to working together beyond the timeframe of this program. At the end of the Kigali event, fellows and host organization representatives signed MOU's creating new partnerships for future joint projects.

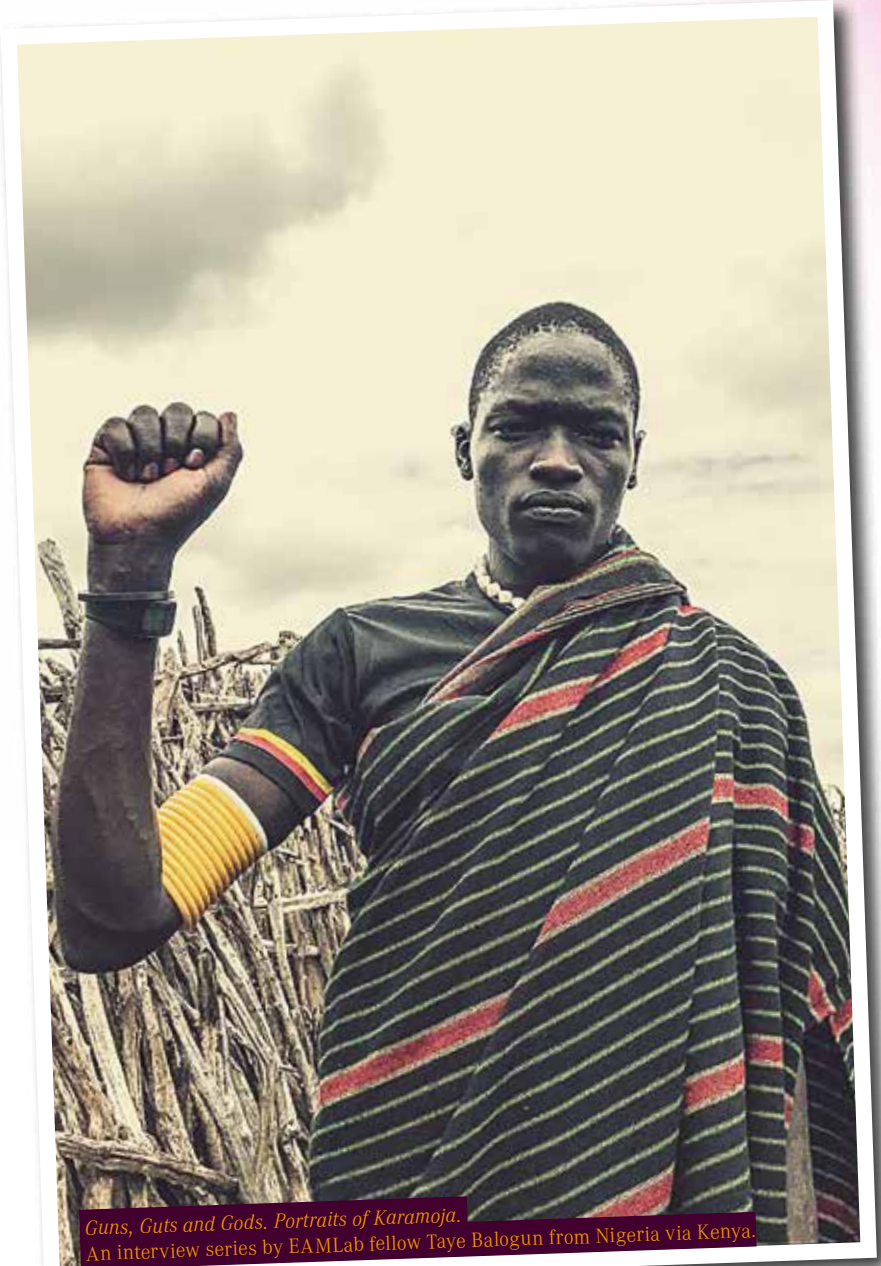
When we first began conversations with icebauhaus about this program, we were all interested primarily in exploring and employing the role of media in society. Our conceptualization of the project was inspired by what we saw as the power of media to illuminate our realities, spark dialogue and create the space for social change. The collaborations

between and amongst the fellows and host organizations, have demonstrated that the power of media is only as significant as the substance and quality of the story. We have been inspired by the stories that came out of this program. From the images of the quotidian in an immigrant community, to the exploration of young entrepreneurs focused on social impact, the promotion of literacy and creative writing, and the interrogation of the impact of the arms trade on daily life, the stories that were created as part of this program reveal the diversity and complexity of our lived realities. They give us a glimpse into people's lives and reveal the power and potential of the media landscape in East Africa.

We at iceaddis and icebauhaus would like to thank the fellows and host organizations for their generosity of spirit, their commitment to collaboration and partnership, and their dedication to telling stories that create social impact. We are grateful to have been apart of this program and look forward to future collaborations and to following the work of this inspiring collective. We encourage you to read more about the fellows, host organizations and their joint projects in this brochure and please do continue to watch their space!

Agazit Abate

Program Manager, EAMLab 2017, iceaddis



Guns, Guts and Gods. Portraits of Karamoja.

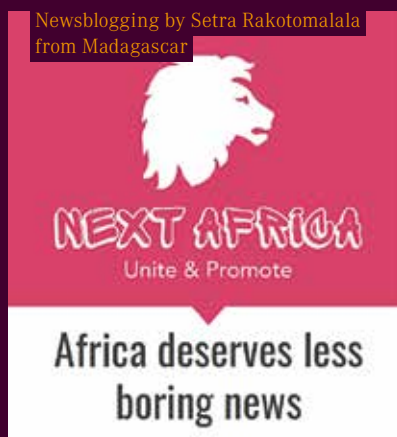
An interview series by EAMLab fellow Taye Balogun from Nigeria via Kenya.



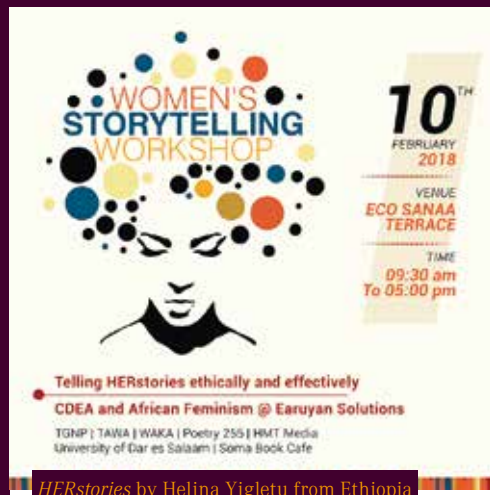
EAMLab fellow Marina Modi from South-Sudan



EAMLab fellow Abdourahmane Diop from Senegal (right)



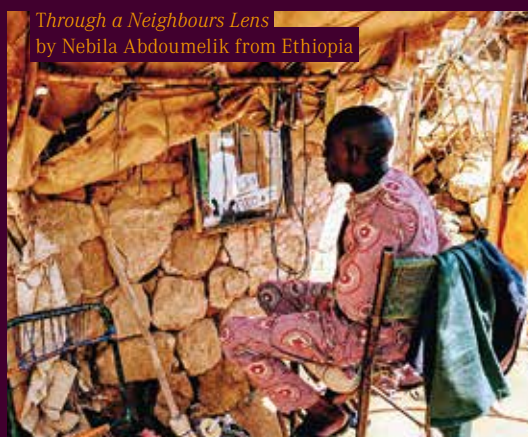
Newsblogging by Setra Rakotomalala from Madagascar



HERstories by Helina Yigletu from Ethiopia



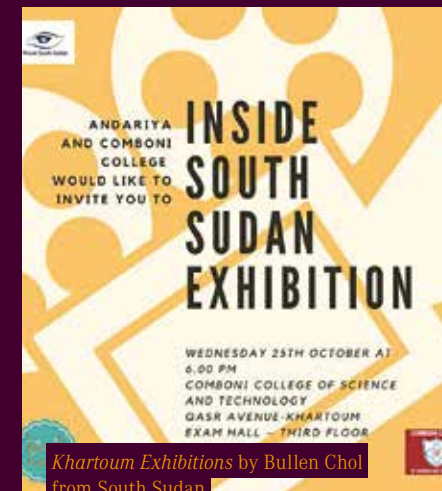
EAMLab fellow Hamdi Ali from Somaliland (middle)



Through a Neighbours Lens by Nebila Abdoumelik from Ethiopia



EAMLab fellow Setra Rakotomalala from Madagascar



Khartoum Exhibitions by Bullen Chol from South Sudan



EAMLab fellow Princely H. Glorious from Tanzania. Guess who!?



EAMLab fellow Omnia Shawkat from Sudan (middle)

«This has been momentous for me! Being a part of this cross-country collaboration, experiencing a new African culture, and producing digital stories is an opportunity I am profoundly grateful for.»
Princely H. Glorious



THE LEGACY OF EAMLAB 2017 – Stories, Steps and Services

The most significant impact of the fellowship was the free movement of people, the exchange of goods and services and the digital documentation of the social, political and cultural issues of our times.

Prior to the establishment of nation states, the African continent, like much of the rest of the world, was categorized by the free movement of people. People would move between mountains and hills along the savannahs and the flatlands, the oceans, lakes and seas, the arid and semi arid desert areas. Some communities were known for their ability to live and sustain nomadic lifestyles, constantly on the move, while others distinguished themselves as hunters and gatherers. Some groups were known for their might in battle, others for their diplomacy and ability to establish ways of life devoid of war. What was common throughout this age was stories.

Before the written word, were oral stories. This is certainly true of Africa, a continent of societies built on storytelling. The central importance of storytelling underlined one of the most popular quotes from literary giant Chinua Achebe who said, “until the lions have

their own historians, the history of the hunt will always glorify the hunter.”

THE FIRST PRINTING PRESS

By the time East Africa's first printing press was in play, the audience included literate populations and those who had been through formal education. Through the written word, a generation of the continent's finest writers came of age and future African presidents exchanged letters that documented their shared struggles for independence. While it was an incredibly important innovation, the majority of the people for whom the stories were written were unable to benefit from this new found technology.

Of course, the advent of mainstream education, literacy and written history was, at times, in conflict with what existed orally. While textbooks and the written word found oral tradition and attempted to codify it, the essence of those stories were often times lost. This was eventually reconciled with the deeper integration of local voices into the print, broadcast and mainstream media world. Over the last 40 years, broadcast and mainstream media in each of the East African

By Mark Kaigwa, Nairobi, Kenya

countries has advanced at its own pace. At times, thanks to government control and advancement, in other instances due to increased competition and private sector involvement. Oral history found new life in our airwaves. Radio being the most accessible medium on the African continent today. The struggle for freedom of speech and expression has been ongoing, differing from country to country, regime to regime and time to time. The push for pan African storytelling and cross border collaboration ebbed and flowed, confronting challenges related to freedom of movement and the intense linguistic diversity of the continent.

THE BENEFITS OF TECHNOLOGY BEAR RECKONING

From the printing press to telecommunication companies, the story of technology continues to transform the continent. Technology over the last decade has challenged and changed the continent, raising a generation of young East Africans in capital cities with smartphones who increasingly recognize their place in the world. Every day, tens of thousands of new SIM cards are activated. Mobile phones drop in price with each passing con-

tainer shipment from the East, and connectivity continues to advance through competition and innovation in the sector. However, as William Gibson has said, "The future is here, it is merely not distributed evenly."

THE EAST AFRICAN MEDIA LAB IS A STORY IN ITSELF

The free movement of people that characterized the continent in years past has become a challenge, including for the modern day storyteller. Visas, geopolitics and the cost implications are just some of the complications hindering cross border collaborations. The underlying premise of the East Africa Media Lab 2017 (EAMLab), is that by removing these barriers and establishing a framework for pan regional collaborative media projects, the storytellers need merely to be left to themselves to create.

THE FELLOWS

In the past, in addition to singing songs, telling stories, proverbs and poems, oral storytellers would take part in trade. In centuries past, it was the exchange of goods and services that showed and celebrated





our diversity, be it cowry shells for leather hides or fresh produce for cured meats. In the EAMLab, the exchanges that took place were around the skills and knowledge base of creatives. It mirrored exchanging one's streets and sunsets for another's traffic and taxis, the swapping of the mundane for the memorable. Each trader needed a central place to operate from, a social network within which to work out of and to engage with. For the fellows, this was their host partner. With the help of their hosts and the developing EAMLab community, fellows embarked on projects that reflected the diversity of the storyteller, the background, history and geography of East Africa.

Omnia Shawkat's foray presented her with a chance to take Andariya to Uganda, while at the same time hosting fellow Bullen Chol. The multilateral exchanges here are important, facilitating Bullen's residency while at the same time advancing the blog and business side of Andariya. With her residency, Omnia engaged with questions that every creative has, how to manage and expand a creative business.

Nebila Abdulmelik's mediations around urban Khartoum are spellbinding. Her ability to raise deeply personal questions through poetry and photography is remarkable. The addition of her spoken word makes clear her point, while leaving interpretation to the ear

and eyes of the audience. With Nebila's work, we are given options of how to engage with art; she allows us to make the choice of viewing her images in silence, with spoken word, or alongside videos of the city. Each time her work is viewed, a new story reveals itself to the determined explorer.

Princely Glorious's fluid project shows the multiple screen sizes a creative can touch and transform through storytelling. From 9:16 Instagram Stories, repurposed and available on multiple platforms showcasing food, tourism, sport and culture down to insights into the boardgame Shax, Princely gives you a multimedia look into Somaliland.

Hilu Yigletu's exploration of storytelling, feminism, and technology revealed the multiple layers of storytelling possible around womanhood on the African continent. Through her workshop, she created a space for women to engage in media and tell their own stories and create their own exchanges of digital goods and services. With this, she gave us a tool for how to replicate such a space.

Abdourahmane Diop is the man with the "green thumb." His desire to take the largest challenge of Africa's time - agriculture's intersection with commerce, social impact and technology, captured the power of the

free movement of information across the Francophone and Anglophone Internet. He is bringing ICT4Ag information to our news feeds by exploring and sharing comparative best practices and local insights, breaking language barriers and urging us to take a collective look at the impact that ICT4Ag can have on our bread basket.

Marina Modi's engagement with women entrepreneurs and innovators gave us insight into the work not only of these women, but also of Marina's own journalistic engagement. The balance between and intersections of their stories and her own is worth looking at long after experiencing her work.

Setra Rakotomalala has the bold ambition to transform what the continent shares and how it shares it. He builds on a track record and pedigree of creating for the social media-driven internet. His ability to stay agile and live out the values of the "lean startup" mean he's a strong contender to continue to build stories, quizzes and interactive experiences online that acquire audiences on the web and across social networks in Francophone and Anglophone Africa.

Bullen Chol's footsteps and recollections of daily life mirror larger conversations around Sudan and South Sudan. His ability to pose

complex questions through his intimate portrayals of South Sudanese communities is part of what led to a successful local exhibition in Khartoum. The work is subtle yet suggestive, reticent yet reflective. As a man, he needn't say much but allow the viewers to gaze and arrive at their own conclusions.

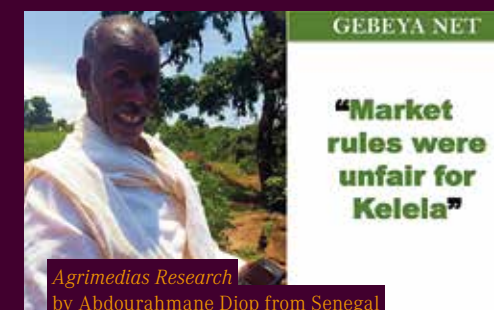
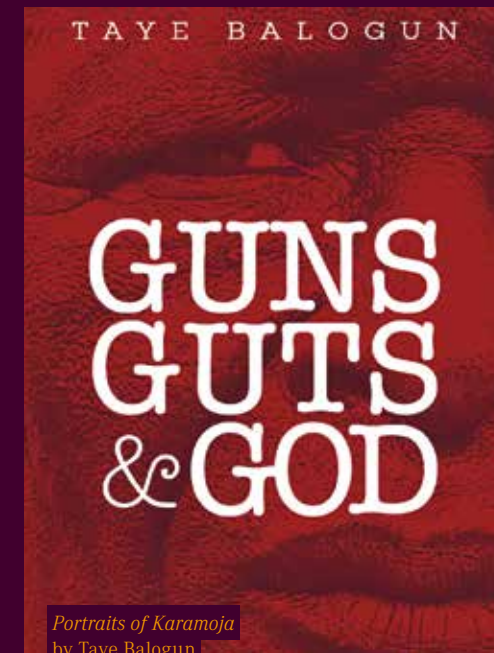
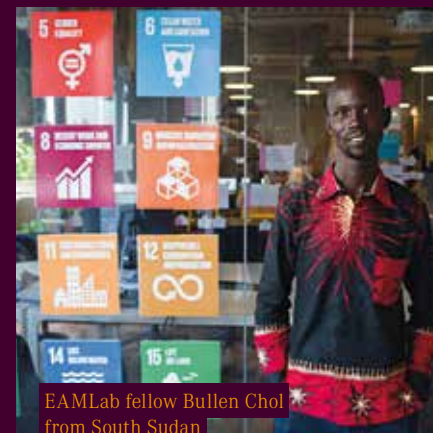
Taye Balogun's intimate portrait series pushes the boundaries of what we know as iPhoneography and mobile phone portraits. The mix and interplay between background and foreground, inanimate objects and stoic subjects leaves us curious, challenged and asking questions on the state of armistice and the human need for safety and dignity.

The EAMLab program produced a case study on what is possible when the free movement of people becomes a reality on the continent. It showed us the power of the media and the ideals of freedom of thought and freedom of speech. The fellowship remains a success not purely because of the work of the fellows and hosts, but through the most transformative of things that they've left behind – the conversations that took place, the friendships created, the ideas sparked, and the imaginations of the future. Most importantly, it left us with the most essential and the longest lasting of things – stories.





EAMLab fellow Nebila Abdulmelik
from Ethiopia



«The feedback from the workshop participants was very positive, they all showed great interest in the topics. I keep in touch with them all and two were especially interested in joining the African Feminism project as contributors.» *Helina Yigletu*



EAMLAB 2017 STEP UP EVENT

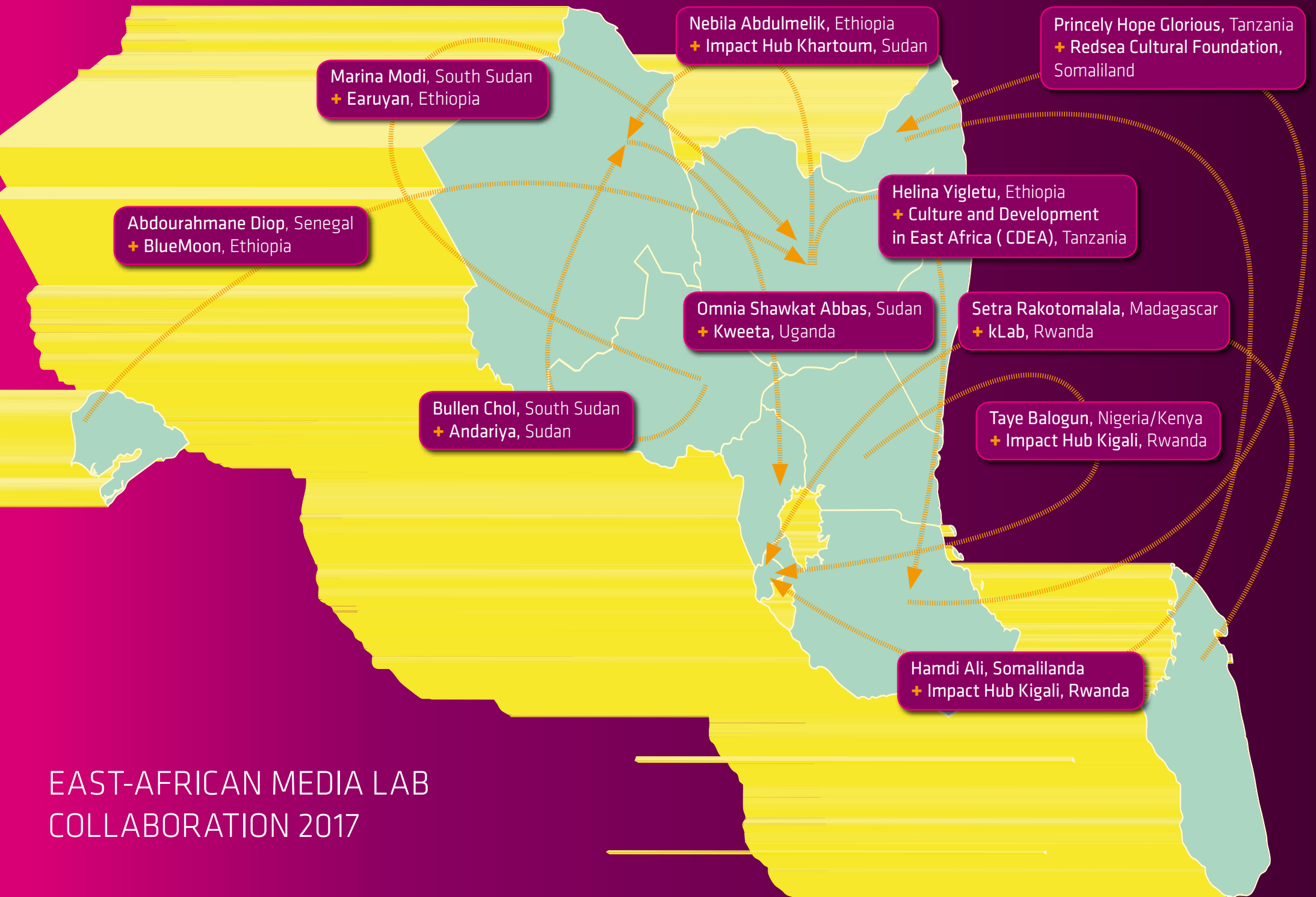
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

20 – 23 September 2017

Where it all began! The kick off event organized around a flexible schedule allowed participants to get to know each other, discuss their projects and the framework of the residencies, and debate around urgent challenges facing the region.

The fellowships covered a broad and exciting spectrum of professional backgrounds and media related working fields, and represented

most countries of the East African region. Media technologies and formats of expression included blogging, photography, interactive mobile video, audio podcast, online forums, media arts, reportage series and poetry, while content topic areas included urban development, gender equality, armed conflict and post conflict societies, *ICT4Ag*, entrepreneurship, media business development, online campaigns and content marketing.





TAYE BALOGUN

Nigeria via Kenya

Taye is a film director, photographer, activist and campaigner. With over a decade of film experience, he has six feature films under his belt, has directed three Broadway musicals, and several commercials and campaign videos. Taye is a passionate change maker, provocative image creator, and pan African storyteller. He is currently heading the Africans Rising Campaigns and Policy Division.

PROJECT: *Guns, Guts and God – Portraits of Karamoja*

Using visual and sound mediums, Taye created a multimedia project capturing the personal stories of people affected by the arms trade in Karamoja, Uganda. *Guns, Guts and God* is a visual transformation of innocence to terror using religion, politics and culture.

HOST: *Impact Hub Kigali, Rwanda*

Impact Hub is a leading global network for creative collaborative action to realize enterprising ideas for a better world. Impact Hub Kigali inspires to be the center of the social enterprise community in Kigali through its community workspace and events, which brings together entrepreneurs, creatives, and drivers of positive social change.



HELINA YIGLETU

Ethiopia

Helina is an aspiring writer and editor who works as a project assistant with Earuyan Solutions. She works on developing training tools for workshops, managing social responsibility projects, and leading the social media engagement of the company. She's involved in *Ankeboot Publishing Haus* and also coordinates and contributes to the *African Feminism Online Platform*.

PROJECT: *African Feminism – Telling Stories of Womanhood*

In an effort to diversify the reach and inclusivity of the African Feminism online platform, Helina conducted a creative writing workshop in Dar es Salaam for potential contributors focused on the importance of articulating the lived experiences of womanhood and feminism, introducing digital storytelling tools, and discussing the ethics of documentation and representation. In order to provide communities and organizations across the continent with resources on how to replicate such a workshop, Helina created an online women centered creative writing workshop toolkit.

HOST: *Culture and Development in East Africa, Tanzania*

CDEA is a creative think tank aimed at mobilizing and supporting civil society in East Africa to participate in evidence-based policy advocacy to place culture at the center of human development. CDEA facilitates multi-stakeholders to use culture as a resource to promote creativity and innovation. Their programming is focused on creative industries, support of creative writers through the *Writers' Lounge*, and implementation of projects around peace and social cohesion.



MARINA MODI

South Sudan

Marina is a trained journalist focusing on tech innovations, open education and entrepreneurship as tools for peace building. She writes on Medium and broadcasts on *podbean*. She enjoys adventure, meeting new people, and sharing and telling stories to inspire and empower.

PROJECT: *Women in Transformative Spaces – Notes of Inspiration*

Inspired by her interest in women's empowerment and development, Marina came to Addis Ababa to interview women entrepreneurs, innovators and professionals. From the materials that she gathered, she created a booklet on perspectives from women creating and working in transformative spaces in the hopes that it can act as an inspiration for young African women looking to diversify their role in society

HOST: *Earuyan Solutions, Ethiopia*

Earuyan Solutions is a social impact driven feminist company offering workshops, forums, research, project/programme design and content development solutions with a particular focus on projects promoting gender equality and leadership development.



ABDOURAHMANE DIOP

Senegal

Abdourahmane is an agronomist engineer specialized in economics and rural sociology. Passionate about agricultural research and communications for development, he created a blog entitled *AgriMedias*. Currently, he works as an independent consultant in the agricultural sectors and is also the general secretary of *Yeesal AgriHub*, an association that promotes innovation in the agricultural sector through ICT.

PROJECT: *AgriMedias – Using Digital Media for Agricultural Development*

Motivated by the prospect of comparing the entrepreneurship support ecosystem in the *ICT4Ag* community in Senegal to that of Ethiopia, Abdourahmane conducted a short-term research project on the actors, perceptions, policies, and level of involvement among young people in the agricultural sector in Addis Ababa. Abdourahmane summarized his research in an online booklet in the hopes that it will help people understand the importance of supporting the *ICT4Ag* ecosystem in Africa.

HOST: *BlueMoon, Ethiopia*

Bluemoon is a youth agribusiness incubator based in Ethiopia aimed at turning exceptional ideas into great companies that can change the world. Bluemoon invests in innovative and scalable businesses within agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry in any commodity and across the value chain.



OMNIA SHAWKAT ABBAS

Sudan

Omnia is a biologist and environment policy professional turned digital media storyteller. She was born in Sudan and has lived and travelled across 22 countries. She hopes to continue exploring the world to inspire and fuel her passion for visual and essay form storytelling on culture, art, women & lifestyle. She is the founder of *Andariya*, a bilingual digital cultural magazine on Sudan and South Sudan.

PROJECT: Pan African Digital Collaborations – Andariya in Uganda

During the residency, Omnia set out to learn the mechanics of setting up and running periodic media forums while improving her skills of managing large teams of remote writers and finding diverse ways of recruiting contributors. She began the process of setting up a Uganda Andariya branch and while she was there, produced stories exploring the lives of Sudanese and South Sudanese in Uganda.

HOST: Kweeta, Uganda

Kweeta is a consultancy company run by writers, campaigners, and communications strategists who provide services including strategic communications, advocacy, social media campaigns and multimedia production. The Kweeta team specializes in the areas of and intersections between media and development, peace and conflict, social justice, governance and accountability, women's rights, health rights, migration and climate change.



SETRA RAKOTOMALALA

Madagascar

Setra is a web entrepreneur and blogger who contributes regularly to *Presse-citron*, a French blog dedicated to web, startup and technology news. He is the founder of a job board called *My Asa Mada* and *Le Blog de Madagascar*, the most visited Malagasy blog.

PROJECT: Next Africa – Blogging in the Sphere of Culture and Social Innovation

Learning from his experience creating *Le Blog de Madagascar*, Setra set out to create a free pan-African digital media platform called *Next Africa* that features content related to culture, pop culture, environment, tourism and innovation. Setra envisions Next Africa as a pan-African Buzzfeed with the aim of creating and growing a platform that is run by young Africans for a young Africans.

HOST: kLab, Rwanda

kLab is a unique open technology hub in Kigali where students, graduates, entrepreneurs and innovators come to work on their ideas and projects to turn them into viable business models. kLab hosts events, workshops, boot camps, hackathons and networking sessions to promote collaboration and partnerships, investment and financing. kLab's mission is to promote, facilitate and support the development of innovative ICT solutions by nurturing a community of entrepreneurs and mentors.



PRINCELY HOPE GLORIOUS Tanzania

Princely is a Tanzanian digital storyteller with a passion for telling deep-dive stories for today's connected Africa using graphic design, video essays and experimenting with emerging digital formats. He has a BA in Communications - Electronic Media and has won awards in film, writing and photography. He is the founder of the *Ona Story Network* - a hub for Africa-first, mobile-first graphic journalism.

PROJECT: *OnaStories, OnaSomaliland – A Digital Deep Dive*

Using the *OnaStories* framework as a guide, Princely created *OnaSomaliland*, a deep dive digital interactive project exploring culture and daily life in Somaliland, including Shax, a Somali board game, street portraits and a series on interesting facts about the country. The interactive site will feed into the future *OnaStories* deep dive series on Tanzania and Kenya.

HOST: *Redsea Cultural Foundation, Somaliland*

The *Redsea Cultural Foundation* promotes the culture of reading and creative writing in Somali speaking society, with a particular focus on youth, through the promotion and distribution of high quality Somali literature and the translation of classical literature into Somali. In addition, they support and promote information and communications technology. The Foundation has established the *Hargeysa Cultural Center*, an important feature in Hargeysa's cultural landscape, and runs the annual *Hargeysa International Book Fair*.



NEBILA ABDULMELIK Ethiopia

Nebila is a pan-Africanist and a feminist passionate about social justice. She uses the creative arts, particularly photography, poetry and short story writing as a way of speaking her peace. She has worked in communications, knowledge management and advocacy at *FEMNET* (a pan African feminist network) and the *African Union*.

PROJECT: *Khartoum Through a Neighbours Lens – A Photo Exhibit*

Inspired by her pan African aesthetic and the idea of capturing images of a neighboring country, Nebila designed a photography project focused on the city of Khartoum. Focusing on daily life and city landscapes, Nebila exhibited the multimedia project, which included sights and sounds of Khartoum.

HOST: *Impact Hub Khartoum, Sudan*

Impact Hub is a leading global network for creative collaborative action to realize enterprising ideas for a better world. Impact Hub Khartoum works through a common vision of optimism driven by the potential to transform lives by offering people the opportunity to connect, collaborate, and innovate to fulfill their entrepreneurial potential and increase their impact on the world. Impact Hub Khartoum has an ultimate mission of making Khartoum a more inclusive place for all of its 6 million people.



HAMDI ALI Somaliland

Hamdi is a writer and activist interested in artistic production and cultural preservation in Somaliland. She works as an archivist and information manager at the *Hargeysa Cultural Center*.

PROJECT: *Mini Book Fair Kigali – A Pilot Program*

As a representative of the *Hargeysa International Book Fair*, Hamdi created a knowledge exchange program in Kigali around the themes – of books, publishing and storytelling. She worked with the Impact Hub Kigali team to create a mini book fair as a pilot program for a potentially larger book fair in the future.

HOST: *Impact Hub Kigali, Rwanda*

Impact Hub is a leading global network for creative collaborative action to realize enterprising ideas for a better world. Impact Hub Kigali inspires to be the center of the social enterprise community in Kigali through its community workspace and events, which brings together entrepreneurs, creatives, and drivers of positive social change.



BULLEN CHOL South Sudan

Bullen is a photographer and filmmaker dedicated to documenting social and political issues in South Sudan. He works independently and freelances for various newspapers and news agencies and is a part of Visual South Sudan, an online photo community platform that works to network and promote local professional and amateur photographers and to share visual stories from South Sudan globally. Bullen holds a diploma in journalism and mass communications and has completed a National Geographic photography training.

PROJECT: *Visual South Sudan – Exploring the Lives of South Sudanese in Sudan*

Modeled around Visual South Sudan, an online platform promoting visual stories of South Sudanese, Bullen's project focused on the photographic documentation and presentation of the life of South Sudanese in Khartoum and was realized through a series of public exhibitions in Khartoum as well as a collection of photo stories on both the Visual South Sudan and Andariya platforms.

HOST: *Andariya, Sudan*

Andariya is an organisation based in Khartoum that runs a bilingual digital cultural magazine on Sudan and South Sudan. Andariya provides a platform in both English and Arabic that aims to voice contemporary analysis, independent and diverse opinions of Sudanese youth, promote creative arts, host cultural events, launch social media campaigns, and offer digital media strategy development, market analysis and content creation services. The Andariya team is composed of a community of more than fifty writers.



EAMLAB 2017 NETWORKING EVENT

Kigali, Rwanda

05 – 09 December 2017



The final three-day networking event in close collaboration with *Impact Hub Kigali* in which the ten fellows were joined by representatives of their respective host organisations, concluded the EAMLab 2017 residency program.

Participants discussed the challenges and outcomes of each residency as well as opportunities for future cross-border collaborations, many of which have already been realized within the first few months following the meeting. The participants all agreed on the text of a common “EAMLab manifesto” and

one of the sessions was specifically dedicated to generating ideas for a potential follow-up edition of the program, ensuring transfer of experiences and continued engagement between the inaugural and future cohorts.

«Everyone added something valuable. I think more West-East-South collaborations are needed to explore potential partnerships and lessons from each area within the intersections of media, technology and storytelling.»

Omnia Shawkat from Sudan



2017 MINI BOOKFAIR KIGALI Kigali, Rwanda 08 December 2017

The *Mini Book Fair Kigali*, the outcome of Hamdi Ali's residency, was co-organized by Impact Hub Kigali and showcased the Rwandan book-publishing and digital storytelling scene and provided experience exchange with the invited international guests of the EAMLab networking event, while serving as a first prototype for future collaborations and larger festival projects. The result was an engaging evening program made up of key-note talks, moderated panel discussions, and a marketplace. Main

presentation and discussion topics included "challenges and opportunities in publishing", "connectivity in the media" and "digital storytelling in shaping the African narratives". The program continued well beyond the official closing hour and was finalized by a traditional dance performance by local Rwandese dancers. As a direct consequence of the Kigali event, Rwanda has been announced as guest country of the 2018 edition of the Hargeysa International Book Fair in Somaliland.





















EAST-AFRICAN MEDIA LAB COLLABORATION MANIFESTO!

We, African media professionals and participants of the East-African Media Lab Collaboration 2017 (EAMLab2017), promote constructive and peaceful media work through peer-learning and a focus on open and free media technologies. In this context, we approach issues of cultural and media work in new, creative, experimental and interdisciplinary ways through digital means.

We aim to follow on our newly initiated working relationships across borders towards the objective of establishing better long-term regional integration within the African media sector. The critical and reflective examination of political and social challenges and opportunities in our countries forms a special focus of our media and artistic activities. In general, creative discourse and sensitive exchange of ideas and perspectives, as opposed to violent confrontation should be encouraged further in our societies. The promotion of peace and dialogue is thereby inseparable from the more media-technological aspects of our work. To advance these objectives, we agree for the upcoming year of 2018, to cooperate in the following ways:

- Continue to further develop and promote the project results achieved within the EAMLab 2017 in-residence program
- Continue our internal dialogue via our dedicated EAMLab social media channels, while expanding our community by inviting selected East African media organisations and professional to join in
- Invite our fellow EAMLab colleagues to any of our upcoming events and programs that may be of interest and benefit to them.
- Discuss and plan new opportunities to collaborate on further regional projects and events across borders

Kigali, Rwanda, December 2017

- Khimbisibwe Linda Shaniro / Uganda / 
- AKUOT (Bella) Chelmayek / South Sudan / 
- RAKOTOHALALA Sotra Nanivony / Madagascar / 
- ANGELA KIHUNURU / TANZANIA / 
- Marina Medis / South Sudan / 
- Abdourahmane Diop / Senegal / 
- Rosebell Kagumire / Uganda / 
- Nebila Abdulmelik / Ethiopia / 
- Biruk Yosef / Ethiopia / 
- Carel Manzi / Rwanda / 
- Helina Tamea Yiglat / Ethiopia / 
- Tsine Andeselassie / Ethiopia / 
- ISMAIL ABDILLAH / Somaliland / 
- TAYE BAHOGUN / ^{Kenya} Tanzania / 
- Hambisi / (Sangha) / 
- Mark W. Kariwa / Kenya / 
- Maria Becancourt / Ecuador / 
- Hajia Fath AlPahman / (Sudan / 
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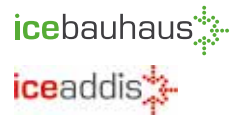
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