



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

Enhancing Forest Domain Awareness in Central Africa

EXPERT ROUNDTABLE

November 19-21, 2024

BIOGRAPHIES

Leadership

Colonel (ret.) Daniel Hampton brings more than 25 years of experience developing and implementing U.S. defense policy and strategy in Africa. As professor of practice in security studies, he oversees curriculum development and program management in the areas of institutional capacity building and civil-military cooperation.

During the course of a 30-year military career, Colonel (retired) Hampton held several postings on the African continent to include the United States Senior Defense Official to the Republic of South Africa and U.S. Defense Attaché to the countries of Eswatini, Malawi, Lesotho, and Zimbabwe. He also served as a policy adviser to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the Horn of Africa region. As part of the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan, Colonel Hampton commanded the Regional Support Command-South responsible for the institutional training, equipping, and resourcing of all Afghan Army and Afghan Police forces in southern Afghanistan.

Colonel (retired) Hampton is a graduate of the United States Army Command and Staff College, the Zimbabwe Staff College, and the Defense Language Institute (French). He holds a Masters in African Studies from the University of Illinois, a Masters in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College, and a B.A. in History from Wake Forest University.

Dr. Catherine Lena Kelly is Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Justice and Rule of Law, and faculty lead for the Africa Center's portfolios on rule of law/security sector governance, as well as countering transnational organized crime. Her work focuses on citizen security, party politics and democratization, the rule of law, and transnational organized crime. She is also a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Prior to joining the Africa Center, Dr. Kelly was an advisor at the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, where her work took her to Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Republic of Congo, and Rwanda. She designed and taught courses on contemporary Africa and democracy as a postdoctoral fellow

at Washington University in St. Louis. At the State Department's Foreign Service Institute, Dr. Kelly taught the West Africa course and co-taught the governance and religion modules in the Area Studies course. She has been awarded numerous fellowships and grants, including a Fulbright Fellowship, a Mellon/American Council of Learned Societies Public Fellowship, a West Africa Research Association grant, several Harvard University grants, and two U.S. Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowship for the Wolof language and eighteen months of doctoral research in Senegal. Her work has been published extensively, both in book form and in policy and academic journals.

Dr. Kelly holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in government from Harvard University, a Graduate Certificate in international politics (Europe, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding) from the Université Libre de Bruxelles, and a B.A. summa cum laude from Washington University in St. Louis.

Dr. Daisy Muibu is an Assistant Professor of Security Studies at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. Her work is focused on counterterrorism, countering violent extremism, and security sector governance in conflict-affected states. She is responsible for leading the counterterrorism and countering violent extremism portfolio as well as the countering transnational organized crime portfolio at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies.

Prior to joining the Africa Center, Dr. Muibu was a Research Fellow at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and an Assistant Professor at the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Alabama. Her work on foreign fighter influence on armed groups and security sector reform in conflict-affected locales involved fieldwork in Somalia and Kenya where she conducted community surveys and interviews. Her work has been published in academic journals including *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict*, *South African Journal of International Affairs*, *The Journal of the Middle East and Africa*, *Conflict, Security and Development*, *Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism*, and the *Combating Terrorism Center*. Dr. Muibu has also been the recipient of various research grants including: the National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education (NCITE); the United Nations' Initiative on Peace and Reconciliation in Somalia; the Association for the Study of The Middle East and Africa; and the University of Alabama.

Dr. Muibu holds a Ph.D. in Justice, Law and Criminology from the American University in Washington D.C. (2020), an MA in Intelligence and International Security from King's College, London (2015), and a BA in International Relations from the United States International University - Africa (2014).

Moderators

Mr. Martin Ewi is the Technical/ROCO Coordinator for the ENACT Project at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), where he previously served as a senior researcher on counter-terrorism and violent extremism, and project leader for ISS counter-terrorism capacity-building project for West Africa and the Sahel. He has also served as Political Affairs Officer at the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, based in The Hague. Before joining the OPCW, Mr. Ewi was in charge of the African Union Commission's counter-terrorism program and arms control and disarmament affairs in Addis Ababa.

Mr. Ewi is a top policy expert with an extensive experience on research and drafting legal documents on security and strategic issues on Africa, spanning a period of over twenty years. During this period, he has held various managerial and progressive technical positions as an expert, and held various consultancies with both continental and international organizations. He has traveled extensively on the continent and has experience in working with African governments and pan-African organizations at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

His main areas of expertise are counter-terrorism and violent extremism, transnational organized crime, disarmament and arms control including small arms and light weapons and weapons of mass destruction, human and drug trafficking, anti-personnel landmines, and common and collective security issues in Africa. He was the first African Union counterterrorism expert, who established and operationalized the AU counter-terrorism and Peace and Security Architecture.

Mr. Ewi holds a MA degree in International Peace Studies from the University of Notre Dame, at Southbend, Indiana, United States of America. He also holds a BA (with Distinction) in Peace Studies and International Politics from Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, United States of America. His research works have appeared in peer reviewed journals and book chapters.

Dr. Oluwole Ojewale obtained his PhD in urban and regional planning. He possesses senior-level experiences in supporting policy influencing projects through advocacy, advisory, evidence gathering and dissemination across 17 countries in Africa, Europe and Middle East. At various times, he served as the project manager, team lead and component manager for large scale programs which have attracted funding from major international development partners in the global north. Currently, he serves as the regional coordinator at the West Africa office of the Institute for Security Studies in Dakar, Senegal. On the ENACT program, he gathers and disseminates evidence through transnational research in eight countries, and provides strategic advice to the Central African Police Chiefs Committee. This is geared towards enhancing regional response to threats and trends of transnational organised crime. He has published in peer-review journals, and co-authored “Urbanization and Crime in Nigeria”, published with Palgrave Macmillan in 2019. His policy commentaries have featured in Daily Maverick, Premium Times, Africa Report, Harvard Bulletin, LSE Blog, ISS Today, The Brookings Institution & The Conversation among others.

Speakers

Brigadier General Dieudonné David Kitenge Amisi is an ecologist and military officer by training with twenty-six years of supervised integration into the professional world, including twenty years of military service with the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (1998 - 2018) and five years of paramilitary service with the Corps de Protection des Parcs Nationaux et réserves naturelles apparentées (CorPPN, from 2018 to the present). Over the course of his career, he has also lectured on Environmental Issues and Nature Conservation at the Ecole de Guerre de Kinshasa, been in charge of the Administration and Logistics OPS Basic Staff Course (CBEM), Head of the Studies and Doctrine Department at the Commandement Général des Ecoles Militaires (CGEM), Assistant Chief of Staff of the Land Force, Commander of the 8th Military Region (Nord KIVU) as Deputy in charge of Administration and Logistics from 2006 to 2009, Director of Military Training at the Military Integration Structure in 2006, and Military Advisor to the Minister of National Defense from 2003 to 2005.

General Kitengé holds an Executive Master's degree in International Security (Strategic and Operational Risk Management), a double Diploma in Strategy and Defense Studies from the Defense University of China and the Collège des Hautes Etudes de Stratégie et de Défense / CHESD RD CONGO, and a degree in Ecology and Nature Conservation from the University of KISANGANI/RDC.

General **Serge Kolingba** of the Central African Republic is a general officer of the national gendarmerie working at the Ministry of National Defense, at the Information and Coordination Center as Commander of the said center.

A graduate of the Brevet d'Études Supérieures de Sécurité, he has 22 years' experience in the security field, having held the positions of Chief of the Police/Gendarmerie Operational Center and Chief of the Mobile Gendarmerie Legion, which enabled me to manage post-conflict situations in my country, the Central African Republic, and above all the pooling of the Police and Gendarmerie to deal with the situation of insecurity resulting from politico-military unrest, General KOLINGBA was highly appreciated by his superiors. This solid experience in commanding an operational center earned him promotion to other, more challenging tasks.

As a result, he was placed at the head of the information and coordination center, a structure placed under the authority of the President of the Central African Republic, and acting under the orders of the Committee of Chiefs of Staff (MINUSCA, CENTRAL AFRICAN GENDARMERIE, CENTRAL AFRICAN POLICE AND CENTRAL AFRICAN ARMED FORCES), whose main task is to collect and process information, followed by analysis and presentation of the security and operational situation in the Central African Republic.

As part of the drive for cohesion between MINUSCA and the Defense and Security Forces, he was responsible for organizing, with the Ministry of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishing, a tree-planting celebration to raise awareness among the population of the dangers of uncontrolled logging and deforestation, which is taking on worrying proportions.

Finally, General Kolingba took part in several training seminars for strategic planners in OSP/GOUVERNANCE in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Mr. Chouaibou Nchoutpouen is the Deputy Executive Secretary and Technical Coordinator for the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC), where he has played a pivotal role in advancing environmental conservation across Central Africa for over 17 years. His career at COMIFAC began in 2008 as a Programme Officer specializing in biodiversity and desertification. Over the years, he managed key initiatives such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) in the region. Mr. Nchoutpouen's leadership extended to coordinating several regional working groups, focusing on biodiversity, protected areas, and desertification, earning him recognition as a prominent figure in environmental negotiations.

Since 2021, he has held the position of Deputy Executive Secretary, where he oversees the Commission's environmental programs and works closely with international stakeholders to promote sustainable forestry practices and biodiversity conservation. His professional background

is built on a Master of Science in Forestry from the University of Yaoundé, Cameroon, and hands-on experience at the Central African Forestry Research and Development Centre (CARFAD), where he led projects on community-based forestry, wildlife management, and non-timber forest products. Mr. Nchoutpouen's work extends beyond COMIFAC, having contributed as a consultant to international organizations such as GIZ, IUCN, FAO, TRAFFIC, and the Cameroon Ministry of Environment. His expertise has shaped policies on sustainable development and biodiversity conservation in the region. Additionally, he has participated in international programs in the United States, focusing on watershed management and climate change, further enhancing his ability to integrate climate resilience into forestry and natural resource management in Central Africa.

Originally from Cameroon, **Mr. Denis Mahonghol** has 24 years' experience in forest governance and conservation in Central Africa. His main areas of work include forestry research, trade, timber traceability and legality, forestry and wildlife law enforcement, capacity-building for public institutions in decision-making and wildlife trade monitoring (flora and fauna). In his extensive career, he has also provided strategic support to indigenous peoples and local communities living alongside or owning forests, to ensure their involvement and participation in their sustainable management.

Between 2000 and 2005, Denis worked as an expert in community forestry development at national and international level. Between 2005 and 2008, he worked with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO: www.fao.org) as Associate Expert, Community Forestry and from 2009-2010, he worked with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP - www.unep.org) as Head of the Forest and Environment Component for the post-conflict environmental assessment of the DRC.

Since 2010, he has been working with the Wildlife Trade Specialists Network - TRAFFIC International where he monitors wildlife trade markets (fauna and flora) to ensure that this trade is legal and sustainable, in the interests of the planet and its populations. He has held the positions of Timber Trade Programme Officer and Senior Programme Officer for TRAFFIC's Central Africa Programme Office.

Since July 2020, he has been Director of TRAFFIC International's Programme Office for Central Africa, based in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Denis has a degree in Water, Forestry and Hunting Engineering and a Master's in Planning and Participatory Management of Forest Resources.

Originally from Cameroon, **Ms. Bricette Nguemwo** has 15 years of professional experience, including 7 years in the conservation sector in Central Africa. Her primary areas of expertise encompass trade and data management of wildlife species (fauna and flora), national and transboundary law enforcement information exchange and collaboration, market surveys, and online monitoring of illegal wildlife trade. She has provided capacity building and technical assistance to support law enforcement officials in meeting their CITES obligations. From 2009 to 2017, she worked as an operational officer and later as an accounting controller in the banking and finance sector.

Since 2017, she has been with the Wildlife Trade Specialists Network - TRAFFIC International,

where she monitors wildlife trade markets to ensure that such trade is legal and sustainable, benefiting both the planet and its populations. She has served in various roles, including data entry support for two projects: Reducing Trade Threats to Africa's Wild Species and Ecosystems (ReTTA) and AFRICA Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange (AFRICA-TWIX). She is currently the Project Manager for AFRICA-TWIX within TRAFFIC's Central Africa Programme Office. Bricette holds a degree in Accounting Control and Auditing.

Mr. Thierry Loic Kenmou, a native of Cameroon with extensive experience in information system development and a degree in computer engineering applied to geographic information systems, is an expert in web development and database management within the OFAC-CE project in support of the Observatoire des Forêts d'Afrique (OFAC), the technical unit of the Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC). In this capacity, he is essentially responsible for the development of various data collection, encoding, processing, analysis and visualization tools within the OFAC information system, which presents multi-thematic analyses on all 11 COMIFAC member countries to facilitate decision-making.

These various tools, developed and integrated within the information system, are equipped with a multitude of indicators at several intervention scales (regional, landscape, national, protected areas and forest concessions) and on several themes (forest cover, legal and institutional framework, forest management, biodiversity conservation and enhancement, climate change, etc.).

Dr. Frank Ankomah is a forester, conservationist, and a certified chain of custody and timber legality Expert with over 25 years professional experience in restoring degraded forest landscapes, managing forest ecosystems, developing legality verification protocols, and auditing timber supply chains. He is also a researcher with specialties in land use, land cover change, forest governance, and forest biometrics, particularly in forest inventories and carbon stock assessment. Dr. Ankomah holds a Ph.D. in Silviculture and Forest Management from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) with an array of academic qualifications, including an MBA, MSc in Environmental Science, and other international certificates in Auditing Management Systems (ISO 19011:2011), FSC Forest Management, from Soil Association Certification Limited, United Kingdom, and FSC™ Chain of Custody and Controlled Wood Expert, from NEPCon, Berlin Germany and FSC® Trademark Training for Certification Bodies on FSC-STD-50-001(V2-0). Dr. Ankomah has consulted on various projects, including those with the African Development Bank, UNDP Ghana, and the Ghana Cocoa Board.

Divisional Commissioner Youssouf Alladjobei Anymi, 42, is a distinguished law enforcement officer with over two decades of experience in public security and international cooperation. Currently, he serves as a Regional Specialized Officer in charge of Environmental Crime at the INTERPOL Regional Bureau for Central Africa in Yaoundé, Cameroon, a position he has held since May 2023. In this role, he is responsible for coordinating efforts to combat environmental crime across the region, working closely with national and international stakeholders. Prior to this, he served as a Senior Liaison Officer at AFRIPOL from 2020 to 2023, where he played a key role in fostering cooperation between African nations to address transnational crime. Anymi's career also includes significant roles within the Ministry of Public Security and Immigration of Chad, including as Inspector of Audits and Investigations from 2014 to 2018, where he oversaw the evaluation of security protocols and conducted investigations into public security issues. Earlier,

he was the Head of the Immigration Section at Hassan Djamouss International Airport in N'Djamena from 2010 to 2013, where he was responsible for managing immigration operations and ensuring border security. Academically, Anymi holds a Master's degree in Sociology from the University of N'Djamena, which has provided him with a strong foundation in understanding societal dynamics and their implications for law enforcement. His extensive experience in both national and regional security frameworks has made him a valuable asset in tackling complex security challenges across Africa.

Mr. Raoul Sumo Tayo is the Central Africa Senior Researcher for the ENACT organized crime project based in Yaoundé, Cameroon. He joined the ISS in June 2024. Prior to this, he worked for the Small Arms Surveys, the Center for Peace, Security and Integration Studies (CPSIS), the University of Maroua, and the Centre for Strategic Studies and Innovations. Sumo Tayo studied Sociology at the University of Liège and History of International Relations at the University of Yaoundé 1, where he obtained his PhD in 2017.

Lieutenant-Colonel Claude Raould Chakoua is an accomplished officer in the Cameroon Air Force, currently serving as the Deputy Commander of COMRMIA4 in charge of Air Forces and as the Commander of the 401st Air Base in Maroua-Salak. With a distinguished career in military aviation, Lieutenant-Colonel Chakoua has demonstrated leadership and expertise in various roles within the Air Force, contributing significantly to the operational effectiveness and strategic coordination of Cameroon's air defense capabilities.

As an Officer Pilot, he has honed his skills in both aerial operations and air base management, overseeing key aviation missions and ensuring the operational readiness of his units. His current position as Commander of the Maroua-Salak Air Base places him at the forefront of managing critical air operations in the region, playing a vital role in the defense and security of northern Cameroon.

Lieutenant-Colonel Chakoua's extensive experience and dedication to service have made him a key figure in Cameroon's military aviation community, where he continues to uphold the highest standards of leadership and professionalism.

Mr. Louis Sosthène Ndong Obiang is Senior Conservator in charge of the operations center at the National Parks Agency of Gabon. In the past, he has also served as Senior Conservator in charge of the Lope, Batéké Plateaux and Monts du Chaillu (Waka-Birougou) Parks, Conservator of the Lope National Park, and Conservator of the East Minkébé National Park, among other positions. Mr. Ndong Obiang has participated in several trainings and seminars; over the course of his commitments, he received a Certificate of Participation for his dedication to the success of the combined American-Gabonese seminar on civil-military operations in support of the fight against illicit trafficking (with Civil Affairs Team 8324, Bravo Company, 83rd Civil Affairs Battalion, US Army/US Embassy) as well as a Wildlife Investigation Court Certificate from the International Law Enforcement Academy, US Fish and Wildlife Service. Mr. Ndong Obiang is a founding member of the Gabon Rangers Association, member of the International Rangers Federation (IRF) and President of the Gabon Rangers Association.

Mr. Etienne Tabi Mbang is the Director of Studies and Foresight at the Central Africa Anti-Money

Laundering Group (GABAC), where he leads critical research and studies on illicit financial trends and criminal activity in Central Africa. With over 20 years of experience in customs administration and financial crime investigation, Mr. Tabi Mbang has become a leading expert in the fight against money laundering, terrorism financing, and transnational crime. His career spans a range of senior roles, including serving as Regional Office Head for the World Customs Organization (WCO) in Central Africa and the Great Lakes, and later as an advisor to the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) and GABAC on anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorism financing (CFT) initiatives.

A highly trained professional, Mr. Tabi Mbang holds multiple degrees, including a Master's in Criminal Sciences from the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, a Master's in Public Law, and a DESS in Fiscal Administration. He has received specialized training in customs surveillance from the National School of Customs in La Rochelle, France, and has attended numerous international seminars on combating financial crime and illicit trafficking.

Mr. Tabi Mbang's professional contributions extend to his active participation in global anti-money laundering networks, such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), where he has been involved in working groups on criminal typologies and terrorism financing. He has also served as a consultant for INTERPOL and the UN, providing expert training on transnational crime, customs intelligence, and anti-money laundering. Through his leadership, Mr. Tabi Mbang has coordinated key studies on financial crime vulnerabilities, the risks of new payment systems in Central Africa, and the illicit transfer of funds. His expertise continues to be instrumental in shaping the region's strategies to combat financial crime and terrorism.

Colonel Elie Kimba serves for the National Gendarmerie at the Central Judicial Research Department for the Republic of Congo.

Dr. Samuel Nguiffo is a Cameroonian lawyer and the manager of the Center for Environment and Development (CED) in Yaoundé. Recognized for his dedication to environmental conservation, he was awarded the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize in 1999 for his efforts in protecting the tropical rainforests of Central Africa.

Nguiffo has been an advocate for the rights of local communities in conflict with conservation authorities, particularly through his influential 2001 report on the Dja Reserve, which highlighted tensions between local populations and reserve management.

As a key leader of CED, Nguiffo also played a pivotal role in organizing a 2003 letter to the U.S. government, protesting the land acquisition and exploitation practices of the U.S.-owned Herakles Farms in Cameroon's South-West region.