Alvaro Lario

*Associate Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Controller, IFAD*

Alvaro is part of the Executive Management Committee and is responsible for the design and implementation of financial strategies and policies at IFAD, including oversight of the Treasury, Controller and Financial Management divisions. Before joining the Fund in, Mr Lario served as Treasury Capital Markets Lead and Principal Portfolio Officer at the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank Group. His earlier positions include various roles in the private sector asset management industry and in academia. Mr. Lario completed his doctorate at the London Business School, where he was awarded a master of research in economics, and received a PhD in financial economics from the Complutense University of Madrid. He also holds a master’s degree in finance from Princeton University.

Etienne Ndatimana

*Head of Product & Operations, Aceli Africa*

Etienne works at Aceli Africa where he was involved in setting up the organization. Prior to that, he managed multi-country projects at the Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund and at the International Finance Corporation. He oversaw a regional agriculture loan portfolio at Root Capital and served as CFO of an agribusiness in Rwanda. He holds an MBA in finance from the University of Nairobi.
IFAD at COP26

Jonathan Casey  
*Climate Change Manager, CABI*

Jonathan leads CABI’s research and project work on climate-smart agriculture for smallholders and agribusinesses across Asia, Africa, and Latin America. He is also the Climate Change Advisor for the CASA Programme (Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusinesses), which works to increase private investments in agriculture in emerging economies by working collaboratively with investors and businesses. Previously, Jonathan worked for an international NGO focused on climate technologies in agriculture, and was engaged in the UNFCCC technology mechanism bodies, the CTCN and the TEC.

Henrik Franklin  
*Director, Portfolio Origination and Management, Nordic Development Fund*

Mr Franklin has 23 years’ experience in international development in Africa, Asia and Latin America, focusing on strategic & operational management, portfolio management, quality assurance & change management. Before joining NDF in August 2021, he was the Lead Portfolio Advisor for the East and Southern Africa Division of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Previous to his work with IFAD, he has worked for the African Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, as well as for the European Commission in Vietnam. He has a Master of Science degree in biology from Stockholm University in Sweden, coupled with studies in economics and environmental management.

Mandy Birch  
*Senior Vice President Technology Partnerships, Rigetti*

Mandy is Senior Vice President, Technology Partnerships at Rigetti Computing—a venture-backed company building full-stack quantum computers and the superconducting quantum processors that power them. Prior to joining Rigetti, Mandy worked in the public sector where she developed a passion for building teams that unlock the potential of disruptive ideas. Mandy holds an MS in Mechanical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, an MA in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and is a distinguished graduate of the United States Air Force Academy.
Nicolas Clavel
Chief Investment Officer, Scipion Capital

In 2007 Nicolas founded Scipion Capital, a high performing African focussed hedge fund manager that invests in a range of sectors across the continent. Nicolas began his career at the Midland Bank Group. He left to join Citicorp Investment Bank Ltd. After managing a Merchant Bank in Geneva with a focus on trade finance in the emerging markets, he returned to Africa as CEO of Standard Bank’s Congo subsidiary before returning to Switzerland to Standard Chartered Grindlays Bank in 2000. At Scipion, Nicolas drives the strategy as Chief Investment Officer.