

CLAUDIA CASAROTTO

SUMMARY

- PhD in Development Economics (ETH Zurich, Switzerland)
- More than eleven years of work experience with international organizations, research institutes, NGOs, and the private sector
- Extensive leadership experience in the Middle East, West, East, and Southern Africa
- Strong management and leadership skills
- Experience in formulating and leading development projects, impact evaluation studies, and financial modelling and evaluation
- Strong research and quantitative data analysis skills, excellent knowledge of monitoring and evaluation methods, good record of publications
- Excellent network across donors, technical cooperation, implementing partners and governments.
- Excellent computer skills, including mathematical modelling, statistics, and survey data management
- Broad language skills: Italian (native), English (excellent), Spanish (advanced), French and German (conversational)

EDUCATION

2009 – 2013	Doctor of Sciences at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich. Thesis topic: “Water economics and governance in the Kafue River Basin, Zambia”.
2005 – 2007	Master degree in International Economics, Università degli Studi of Pavia, Italy. Dissertation on Water Charging: Efficiency and Equity Considerations, 110/110 honour.
2002 – 2005	Bachelor degree in Economic and Social Sciences, University of Milan “Luigi Bocconi”. Dissertation on Water Availability and Conservation in Sub-Saharan Africa, 107/110.
2002	High School at “Liceo Ginnasio Giovanni Berchet” specialized in Classical Studies, 100/100.

SKILLS

Languages	Italian: Mother tongue English: Excellent (C2) Spanish: Good (B2) German: Good (B1) French: Conversational (A2) Arabic: Basic
IT	Excellent command of Microsoft Office. Advanced knowledge of the statistical software SPSS, the mathematical programming software GAMS, and the social research software Atlas.ti. Good knowledge of the statistical software STATA and R-Project, the mathematical programming software Matlab, and the data entry software CSPro.

WORK EXPERIENCE

April 2019 – To date

Regional Director West Africa at Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)

- Provide oversight to seven Country Offices in West Africa to ensure their overall financial and operational health and sustainability.
- Advise and assist Country Directors on management issues and provide strategic and operational support to country leadership.
- Oversee the opening of the IPA Nigeria office, including staffing, compliance, strategic direction.
- Oversee the development of new projects, provide methodological and research design advice, spearhead fundraising, and support strategic project development opportunities across the West Africa region.
- Work with Country Programs to refine their focus and grow their sector approach with key stakeholders and to set a corresponding agenda for policy engagement and project development.
- Promote high quality research and support the roll-out of innovations in research methods.
- Contribute to and champion global priorities including IPAs new Strategic Ambition and ensure that global goals are part of country plans and priorities.
- Lead the development and implementation of country office research and policy agendas and activities.
- Manage and spearhead relationships with IPA's partners, donors, and researchers in Africa and in Europe.

February 2019 – June 2019

IPA Zambia Interim Country Director at Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)

- Oversee IPA Zambia operations including research activities, administration, and finance teams.
- Lead the development of internal policies on asset management and disposal, procurement, cash advances and per diem.
- Lead project development activities, including project design and budgeting, proposal writing, partner outreach activities, relationship building with new academic and non-academic partners.
- Partnership management and creation with bi- and multi-lateral donors (FSD Zambia, World Bank), research institutions (American Institute of Research), and governmental institutions.

April 2017 – January 2019

Senior Consultant at Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- Lead and coordinate the socio-economic team in the Water Service of the Land and Water Unit.
- Design the impact evaluation framework for: 1) water harvesting project in northern Jordan; 2) water management projects in Burkina Faso, Morocco and Uganda; 3) water accounting project in Lebanon. The work entails the design of survey instruments, team management, implementation of data flow and quality assurance systems, data analysis and reporting.
- Development of a hydro-economic model for the cross-boundary water resources management in the Senegal River Basin.
- Project evaluation and technical audit of the Farm-level Irrigation Management Project in the Nile Delta in Egypt, overall coordination of the team of national and international consultants, stakeholders' management, and specific focus on qualitative and quantitative data collection design and analysis.

February 2018 – August 2018

Interim Country Director at Innovations for Poverty Action Uganda (IPA)

- Oversee all IPA Uganda operations including research activities, administration, IT and finance teams.
- Responsible for overall 30 permanent staff and about 200 non-permanent staff, with direct responsibility over 8 management-level employees.

- Lead project development activities, including project design and budgeting, proposal writing, partner outreach activities, relationship building with new academic and non-academic partners.
- Partnership management and creation with bi- and multi-lateral donors (DFID, World Bank, Instiglio, private foundations), research institutions (Universities of California, WBZ, Harvard), NGOs (We Care Solar, Earthenable) and governmental institutions.
- Coordinate the development of internal policies on asset management, procurement, and safety and security.
- Contribute to the dissemination of study findings and outreach activities in Uganda and globally.

February 2014 – March 2017 and October 2017 – January 2018

Deputy Country Director at Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), Nairobi/Kenya

- Direct oversight of Research Management and Policy and External Relations teams.
- Directly manage three research projects in the fields of agriculture and economic empowerment.
- Principal investigator for the research project: “Impact evaluation of the Employment for Development/SOGA programme in Kenya”.
- Contribute to the development of new projects, including project design and budgeting, proposal writing, partner outreach activities, relationship building with new academic and non-academic partners.
- Partnership management and creation with bi- and multi-lateral donors (World Bank, KfW, private foundations), technical cooperation organizations (GIZ, JICA, FAO), research institutions (IFPRI, Yale, Berkeley, Harvard, London School of Economics, ETHZ), NGOs (Save the Children, Oxfam, Care) and governmental institutions.
- Contribute to the development of internal policies on procurement, cash advances, safety and security.
- Contribute to the dissemination of study findings among governmental and non-governmental partners.

January 2013 – February 2014

Risk Manager at Swiss Re, Sustainability and Political Risk Department, Zurich/Switzerland

- Responsible for assessing the environmental, social, governance risks related to new (re)insurance transactions, including providing recommendation to senior management team.
- Generate an environmental, social and governance sovereign rating.
- Evaluate the risk of social unrest in the mining sector through the development of a rating and GIS data.
- Collaboration in the “Economics of Climate Adaptation” study.
- Participation in the UN Global Compact and UN Principles for Sustainable Insurance task teams.
- Training of Swiss Re professionals on sustainability and risk management.

March 2009 – March 2013

Doctoral candidate at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETHZ), Centre for Development and Cooperation, Zurich/Switzerland

- Research focus: economics and governance in the Kafue and Zambezi River Basins.
- Analysis of the different water uses in the basin and applied mathematical modeling techniques to examine tradeoffs in the use of water resources.
- Governance analysis of the Zambian water sector that lead to concrete policy recommendations.
- Close collaboration with stakeholders (government, international organizations, private sector).
- Conceptualization and execution of a rural household survey. Tasks included intensive project management, field work, training and supervision of eight Zambian enumerators, data analysis.
- Supervision of three Master students from developing countries.
- Lecturer of the post-graduate course on “Water management - theory and practical applications” and guest lecturer for “Challenge the Best 2012”, University of St. Gallen.

March 2009 – September 2012

Consultant at Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Land and Water Division

- Collaboration in the follow-up projects to the Conference on “Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa: the Challenges of Climate Change”. Collection and financial analysis of project data and definition of investment envelopes for Egypt, Kenya, and Zambia.
- Collaboration with the CAADP initiative on Inter-Sectoral Investment Assessment Programme.
- Collaboration in the investment chapter of “The State of the World's Land and Water Resources”.
- Formulation of the Technical Cooperation Project “Water and energy resources in the Near East and North Africa in the context of climate change”. The work also entailed: (1) the revision of the projects’ portfolios provided by the national consultants, (2) the application of the financial model to derive investment needs, (3) the preparation of the economic analysis section of the national investment profiles.
- Formulation of the Technical Cooperation Project “Support Cooperation on Water Resource Management in the Lower Mesopotamia Region” project.
- Field work in Zambia and Jordan: enumerators’ training, survey management, data management.

June 2008 – December 2008

Consultant at Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Land and Water Division, Rome/Italy

- Technical preparation of the Ministerial Conference on “Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa: the Challenges of Climate Change”.
- Preparation of Investment Briefs for 53 African Countries.
- Collection and systematization of investment projects and investment costs related to water and energy at national and regional level.
- Development of a financial model to facilitate the prioritization of water-related projects at national level.
- Coordination with national counterparts and with representatives of international organizations and donors (African Development Bank, African Union, Economic Commission for Africa, etc.).
- Participation in the national and regional consultation processes.

October 2007 – May 2008

Intern at ICARDA (International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas), Integrated Land and Water Management Division, Aleppo/Syria

- Research focus: irrigation water rationing and allocation for enhanced profit and water productivity.
- Formulation of a theoretical non-linear economic optimization model making use of the MS Excel Solver.
- Participation in stakeholders’ surveys.

January – April 2007

Volunteer at Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Land and Water Division, Rome/Italy

- Analysis of water pricing methods in agriculture, considering also efficiency and equity implications.
- Statistical analysis of investment costs in irrigation.

July – September 2005

Intern at HanseNet Telekommunication, Business Analysis Department, Hamburg/Germany

- Statistical analysis of drivers in current access area in order to prepare selection of further MDFs for German Expansion and to calculate the number of potential customers.
- Churn rate analysis and market Analysis and support to the Business Analysis Team.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE

I am a founding member of Bye Bye Plastik Sylt, an initiative that aims at reducing plastic waste on the island of Sylt and in Germany. From May 2018 I am also a volunteer with the association Integrationshilfe Sylt e.V. where I provide alphabetization and language training to migrants and asylum seekers.

From September 2004 until August 2007 I was a volunteer with Amref, a NGO whose mission is to provide international aid to Developing Countries. My tasks focused on the water and sanitation projects in rural and peri-urban context. I also helped organizing a series of fund raising events.

PUBLICATIONS

Tilmant, A., Pina, J., Salman, M., Casarotto, C., Lebdi, F., 2020. Probabilistic trade-off assessment between competing and vulnerable water users – The case of the Senegal River basin. *Journal of Hydrology* 587 (2020).

Salman, M., Casarotto, C., Abdelfattah, A., 2018. Solar powered irrigation for sustainable agricultural development. Paper presented at the ICID International Conference, Saskatoon, Canada, August 2018.

Salman, M., Casarotto, C., Bucciarelli, M., 2017. An assessment of policies, institutions and regulations for water harvesting, solar energy, and groundwater in Jordan. A review and gap analysis. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, in publication.

Casarotto, C., 2013. Water governance and economics in the Kafue River Basin, Zambia. PhD thesis, Diss. ETH. No. 366.

Casarotto, C. and R. Kappel, 2013. A half empty bucket: women's role in the governance of water resources in Zambia. *The Journal of Gender and Water* 3 (2013) 1-26.

Simfukwe, T., Casarotto, C., Kalinda, T., G. Tembo, 2012. Rural household water use in the Kafue River Basin in Zambia. Accepted for presentation at the World Congress on Water, Climate and Energy, Dublin, May 2012.

Tilmant, A., Kinzelbach, W., Juizo, D., Beevers, L., Senn, D. and C. Casarotto, 2012. Economic valuation of benefits and costs associated with the coordinated development and management of the Zambezi river basin. *Water Policy*, 14 (2012) 490–508.

Koohafkhan, P., Salman, M. and C., Casarotto, 2011. Investments in land and water - SOLAW Background Thematic Report – TR17. In “The state of the world's land and water resources for food and agriculture (SOLAW) - Managing systems at risk”. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome and Earthscan, London.

Uhlendahl, T., Salian, P., Casarotto, C. and J. Doetsch, 2011. Good Water Governance and IRWM in Zambia - Challenges and Chances. *Water Policy* 13 (2011) 845–862.

Casarotto, C., Kappel, R., Bernauer, T., Simfukwe, T., Kalinda, T., G. Tembo, 2012. Water Economics and Governance in the Kafue River (ADAPT). CCES Latsis Symposium 2010. Zurich, Switzerland, 15-17 November 2010.

Casarotto C., Salian, P., and R. Kappel, 2009. Water Governance in Zambia – The Case of the Kafue River Basin. Presented at Tropentag 2009, 6-8 October 2009, University of Hamburg, Germany
