Grace Kalowa Kaonga

Country Lead

Personal details

Grace Kalowa Kaonga

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Education

Master's In Environmental And Social Governance
Dec 2023 - Jul 2024
Institute of Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility, Goa, India

Masters in business Administration
Apr 2014 - Nov 2016 Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute, Arusha

Bachelor of Social Science
Jan 2004 - Dec 2007
University of Malawi Chancellor College, Zomba

Skills

- Renewable Energy Industry expertise.
- Business development
- Team leadership
- Sustainable development
- Climate Risk assessment and adaptation planning

Profile

A very highly purposeful and strategic Country Lead, well experienced in driving growth and expansion in the renewable energy sector. A very transformative Country Lead driving sustainable energy solutions and climate adaptation initiatives in the renewable energy sector. Proven expertise in delivering large-scale projects, fostering stakeholder relationships, and promoting environmentally responsible business practices. Enthusiastic advocate for gender integration and women's empowerment in the energy sector, leveraging expertise to drive inclusive and sustainable development. Committed to advancing climate resilience, promoting clean energy access, and supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Skilled in navigating complex regulatory environments, building high-performing teams, and driving business growth while prioritizing environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and gender equality. Evidence based history of building high-performing teams and fostering strategic partnerships.

Work Experience

Country Lead **January 2025-Present**

JCM Power, Lilongwe

- Strategic leadership: Developing and executing JCM Malawi country-level strategies to drive business growth, improve market share, and enhance brand reputation.
- Financial oversight: Overseeing and managing financial operations of JCM Malawi.
- Team management: Leading high-performing cross-functional teams, fostering a culture of innovation, collaboration, and continuous improvement.
- Stakeholder engagement: Building and maintaining strong relationships with government officials, investors, regulators, and industry partners to promote the adoption of renewable energy solutions.
- Market development: Identifying and capitalizing on new business opportunities, expanding the company's presence in the country, and driving revenue growth.
- Regulatory expertise: Navigating complex energy regulatory environments, ensuring compliance with relevant laws, regulations, and industry standard.

Senior Social Performance Specialist **July 2022-Dec 2024**

JCM Power, Lilongwe

- Developing and implementing the company's environmental, and social management plans including the relevant policies and mechanisms.
- Ensuring compliance to sustainability regulations and international standards including the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Standards.
- Ensuring compliance to sustainability regulations and international standards.
- Collaborate with internal and external stakeholders to achieve sustainability objectives and conducting ESG Research.
- Managing the social performance team order to achieve departmental goals.
- Monitoring and supporting sustainability reporting.
- Management of the Company's Corporate Social responsibility Action Plan.

- Project development
- Policy and regulation
- Project Finance
- Resilience Building
- Stakeholder engagement
- Collaboration
- Research & Development

Languages

English

Certificates

Certified ESG Practitioner, IICSR
May 2024

Certificate in Land Acquisition, resettlement, and social sustainability. Sep 2022

Affiliations

Open Africa Power Fellow, Enel Foundation 2021
Women in Renewable Energy Fellow, IFC 2022
Res4Africa Fellow, Advance Training Course 2021-2022.

Achievements

Recognized by MIGA/World Bank Group for country case study on GBV Prevention and response.

References

Shane Eglinton, Regional Director, Africa JCM Power.
0027673898389
seglinton@jcmpower.ca

Frank Chisambula
MHRC, Lilongwe
00265999937356.
fchisambula1@gmail.com

Ken Nyirenda
Concern Worldwide, Lilongwe
00265881304254,
Ken.Nyirenda@concern.net

Gender Inclusion Specialist **Apr 2020 - Jun 2022**

JCM Power, Lilongwe

- Developing and implementing gender inclusion strategies: Creating policies, programs, and initiatives to promote gender equality and address disparities.
  Conducting training and workshops: Educating staff, stakeholders, or community members on gender issues, unconscious bias, and inclusive practices.
- Building partnerships and collaborations: Partnering with internal and external stakeholders, such as community organizations or government agencies, to advance gender inclusion goals.
- Monitoring and evaluation of company gender equality strategies.

Gender Advisor **Oct 2017 - Dec 2018**

Concern Worldwide, Lilongwe

Leading and monitoring implementation of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion programming within Concern Malawi.

- Leading and monitoring implementation of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion programming and activities within Concern Malawi including developing tools for analysis and response to GESI in line with Concern policies, local context, and programme plans.
- Development and implementation of high-quality programme design, ensuring GESI approaches are firmly rooted and advance gender equality outcomes.
- Building the capacity of Concern and partner staff to understand and implement transformational approaches, promotion of GESI and GBV prevention & response.
- Supporting quality programme design and M&E from a GESI perspective by contributing to programme outcomes, indicators, and strategies.
- Generating learnings from Concern MW programs to promote good practice in internal gender equality work, represent Concern externally in networks and forums.
- Working with the Director to identify and pursue funding opportunities that facilitate strong GESI programming.

Undersecretary **Jan 2017 - Oct 2017**

Malawi Human Rights Commission, Lilongwe

- Head of the Commission's project management unit and administration.
- Developing and implementing human rights programs and administrative policies.

Gender and Women Rights Officer **January 2025-Present**

Malawi Human Rights Commission, Lilongwe

- Advocating for Women's Rights by promoting gender equality, combating discrimination, and ensuring that women have equal access to opportunities.
- Monitoring the implementation of laws, policies, and programs on women's rights.
- Reporting on violations of women's rights and make recommendations.
- Building the capacity of government agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders to promote and protect women's rights through technical assistance.
- Conducting research and analysis on women's rights and developing evidence-based recommendations for policy and program development.
- Collaborating with other stakeholders to share resources and best practices.
- Contributing to the development of women rights policies and programs.

Human Rights Investigations Officer **Jan 2011 - Dec 2013**

Malawi Human Rights Commission, Lilongwe

- Conducting investigations into alleged human rights violations.
- Preparing comprehensive investigations reports action to address the violations.
- Monitoring and evaluating human rights situations and provide regular updates.

Secondary School Teacher **Aug 2009 - Dec 2010**

Ministry of Education, Lilongwe

- Planning and delivering lessons and assessing students' academic progress.

Sales Representatives **Aug 2009 - Dec 2010**

Gestetner NCR, Lilongwe

- Identifying sales opportunities and achieving sales targets.