

## Announcement

### AlphaMundi Foundation Announces New Executive Director Sawa Nakagawa

Nairobi, 26 January 2024

AlphaMundi Foundation (AMF), a nonprofit organization that supports SMEs with a social/environmental mission across Africa and Latin America by providing blended finance products and incorporating a Gender Lens Investing for Climate (GLIC) approach, is pleased to announce that Sawa Nakagawa has joined as its new Executive Director in its Nairobi Office.

Sawa is an impact-driven leader with a track record of driving societal and environmental changes through impact investing and social entrepreneurship in emerging markets. As Executive Director, Sawa will leverage her leadership experience and technical knowledge to guide the organization in its mission to strengthen the long-term commercial viability of SMEs in Africa and Latin America to drive economic transformation.

*"It's an honor to join AMF whose mission deeply resonates with me,"* said Sawa Nakagawa. *"As emerging economies grapple with the disproportionate impact of climate change, which perpetuates structural inequalities, there is tremendous opportunity to tackle the challenges through harnessing the power of SMEs. I look forward to working with AMF's dedicated team, board members, and partners to scale our collective impact across Africa and Latin America."*



Lisa Willems, AMF Board Chair and Founder shared that *"the Foundation is at a unique and pivotal point, having built a strong track record for strengthening impact investment portfolio companies through grants and technical assistance. With Sawa joining, the Foundation is stronger than ever to support women-focused, gender diverse and promising social enterprises to get the support they need to thrive."*

Sawa brings over 20 years of experience in impact investing, business strategy, program design and management, and commercial banking to the Foundation. Prior to AMF, Sawa founded and led ThreeArrows Impact Partner, a specialized advisory firm focused on impact investing, social innovation and sustainability based in Johannesburg and Nairobi. Previously, she served as Chief Executive Officer of E<sup>2</sup> Investments, a South African impact investing company focused on creating sustainable jobs and alleviating poverty. She has a strong financial and business acumen with a

focus on emerging markets, having worked for a range of institutions including Barclays Africa/ Absa Investment Bank, International Finance Corporation (World Bank Group), and UBS Investment Bank.

Sawa holds an MBA from Columbia Business School and a Masters in International Affairs from the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University. Sawa is a Chartered Financial Analyst and holds a Certificate in ESG Investing.

## About AlphaMundi Foundation

The AlphaMundi Foundation is a US not-for-profit 501(C)(3), with subsidiary AlphaMundi Foundation Africa, based out of Nairobi. Our mission is to strengthen the long-term commercial viability of SMEs in Africa and Latin America to drive economic transformation, leading to increased job creation, income generation, and improved quality of life. Started in 2016 by the management of the impact investing firm, AlphaMundi Group, AMF has a track record of providing structured blended finance products to SMEs and incorporating a Gender Lens Investing for Climate (GLIC) approach. AMF has provided grants, loans and technical assistance, including GenderSmart programming, to support high impact SMEs in Africa. Current programs include [Daraja Impact](#), a Tanzania-focused grants and loans initiative for women and youth-led enterprises, and WE4F results-based financing to strengthen leading Pan-African organic fertilizer companies. For more information, visit [www.alphamundifoundation.org/](http://www.alphamundifoundation.org/) and follow us on [LinkedIn](#). For any partnership enquiries, please contact [amfinfo@alphamundi.ch](mailto:amfinfo@alphamundi.ch).