

2024 Lacuna Fund Grantee Convening

FRIDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER – SATURDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2024

Agenda

Martinique Hotel New York on Broadway, by Hilton
49 W 32nd Street
New York City, NY 10001 USA

Day 1 Virtual Link for Partner Presenters:

<https://merid.zoom.us/j/3777720878?pwd=RU5sYTBIVGJ0aGxyNFgxaGxXL2FhUT09&omn=81447939831>

Day 2 Virtual Link for Partner Presenters:

<https://merid.zoom.us/j/3777720878?pwd=RU5sYTBIVGJ0aGxyNFgxaGxXL2FhUT09&omn=88300087985>

MEETING OBJECTIVES

- Meet, develop relationships, and exchange lessons learned among Lacuna Fund grantees and partners.
- Raise awareness of dataset sustainability and utilization and connect to potential users via communications.
- Explore gender bias and tools to mitigate that and improve projects.
- Raise visibility on how AI can address climate challenges, on the margins of Climate Week.

Grantee Convening

20 SEPTEMBER 2024 (FRIDAY)

7:30 AM – Breakfast

8:30 AM Ballroom C, Martinique Hotel

- Lacuna Fund grantees and partners are welcome to eat breakfast at their convenience.

8:30 AM Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

Ballroom AB, Martinique Hotel

Jennifer Pratt Miles, Project Director, Lacuna Fund

9:00 AM Lightning Project Talks

Lacuna Fund Grantees

- Project representatives will share a brief description of their dataset (5 minutes), including the following:
 - Team members involved
 - The gap the project intended to fill
 - Stakeholder or community engagement the team undertook
 - Current, planned, or potential uses of the dataset
 - Sustainability and communications strategy

After the presentations of grantees in each domain, there will be a Question & Answer session followed by a break before the next session.

Presentations [Climate & Energy]

Lacuna Fund Climate & Energy grantees will share lightning project talks:

- **Catherina Cader** (*Climate & Energy*): Artificial Intelligence for Energy Access
- **Emmanuel Chukwuma** (*Climate & Energy*): Development of Emission Dataset for Abattoir Operation facilities in Southern Parts of Nigeria
- **Gul Muhammad Khan** (*Climate & Energy*): Dataset for Energy consumption, needs & forecasting using Indigenous tools
- **Jose Cordova-Garcia** (*Climate & Energy*): EDADES: Ecuadorian Dataset on Access, Demand, and Availability of Electricity Supply
- **Maria Fernanda Ramirez Bernal** (*Climate & Energy*): Urban roadspace classification, taxonomy and label training dataset
- **Naveed Arshad** (*Climate & Energy*): Residential Energy and Weather Datasets (REWD) of Pakistan
- **Rafidiharirinirina Fabienne M** (*Climate & Energy*): Open Solar Panel Data Madagascar
- **Shubham Tandon** (*Climate & Energy*): Hyperlocal Mapping of Air Pollution and GHG Emissions in India

9:40 AM Question & Answers [Climate & Energy]

- Lacuna Fund Secretariat staff will moderate a Q&A session with Climate & Energy grantees.

9:55 AM Break

10:05 AM Presentations [Climate & Health]

Lacuna Fund Climate & Health grantees will share lightning project talks:

- **Agnes Kiragga** (*Climate & Health*): Harmonizing Climate Health Data: INSPIRE meeting
- **Alex Quistberg** (*Climate & Health*): Climate Change, Built Environment and Health in Informal Settlements in Colombia

- **Joseph Philip Telemala** (*Climate & Health*): Tanzania Climate-Sensitive Waterborne Diseases Dataset for Predictive Machine Learning
- **Patricia Anne Faustino & Anica Araneta** (*Climate & Health*): Linking Village-Level Data on Climatic Impact-Drivers, Socioeconomic Vulnerability, and Environmental Conditions to health Impacts across 12 Philippine Cities
- **Rodolfo de Carvalho Pacagnella** (*Climate & Health*): Pre-View: Perinatal health outcomes and climate change observatory

10:30 AM Question & Answers [Climate & Health]

- Lacuna Fund Secretariat staff will moderate a Q&A session with Climate & Health grantees.

10:45 AM Break

11:00 AM Presentations [Climate & Forests]

Lacuna Fund Climate & Forests grantees will share lightning project talks:

- **Cristina Aguilar** (*Climate & Forests*): Machine learning training data for continental Ecuador and Galapagos
- **David Makori (TBC)** (*Climate & Forests*): Data-enabled climate shock absorbance through agroforestry (Agrof4resilience)
- **Fabrice Zapfack** (*Climate & Forests*): WatchMyTree
- **Foster Mensah** (*Climate & Forests*): Reference Data Collection for Improving Land Use Change Mapping in Ghana
- **Kenmoe Kendie** (*Climate & Forests*): Forest Carbon Sequestration in the Congo Basin
- **Salako Kolawole Valere** (*Climate & Forests*): Blue carbon and economy in West Africa: mobilizing datasets to better understand mangrove health in relationship to climate change
- **Sarah Akello** (*Climate & Forests*): AI for predicting land use/land cover changes in Uganda

11:40 AM Question & Answers [Climate & Forests]

- Lacuna Fund Secretariat staff will moderate a Q&A session with Climate & Forests grantees.

11:55 AM Group Photo

TBC, Martinique Hotel

12:00 PM Lunch with Steering Committee Members

Ballroom C, Martinique Hotel

- Lacuna Fund grantees will have lunch with Lacuna Fund Steering Committee members.

1:00 PM Workshop: Crafting Data Use Cases for Climate Impact

Ballroom AB, Martinique Hotel

Shikoh Gitau, Qhala & Lacuna Fund Steering Committee; Anne Salim, Qhala; Michelle Ogolla, Qhala

This workshop is focused on developing data use cases that enhance the value and impact of climate datasets. This session is designed to empower climate dataset authors with the skills to create meaningful and actionable use cases that contribute to sustainable development. In this workshop, you'll collaborate to:

- Identify the problems in the climate domain
- Define clear research objectives and goals
- Identify and map out climate datasets needed and available
- Define the solutions and also address gaps faced
- Generate insights that inform decisions
- Measure the impact of your data use cases.

2:30 PM Data Governance Impact Assessment

Teki Akuetteh, Africa Digital Rights Hub & Lacuna Fund Steering Committee

- Presentation about framework for conducting data governance impact assessments
- Interactive group discussion to outline impact assessments

3:30 PM Coffee Break**4:00 PM Data Quality Workshop**

Albert Kahira, Datawise Africa

- Lacuna Fund partners at Datawise Africa will present a brief overview of the guidance they developed to improve data quality.
- Datawise will lead grantees in a hands-on workshop about data quality, sustainability, documentation, and hosting.

5:30 PM Adjourn Meeting**6:30 PM Grantee Dinner with Lacuna Fund Partners**

[The Wilson](#) Restaurant, Downstairs (TBC)

- Lacuna Fund grantees will dine with Lacuna Fund Secretariat and partners.
- Grantees meet at 6:00pm in the hotel lobby to walk over to the restaurant together.

21 SEPTEMBER 2024 (SATURDAY)

7:30 AM - Breakfast

8:30 AM Ballroom C, Martinique Hotel

- Lacuna Fund grantees and partners are welcome to eat breakfast at their convenience.

8:30 AM Welcome & Opening Activity

Ballroom AB, Martinique Hotel

Katrina Gehman, Lacuna Fund Secretariat

- Grantees will have an opportunity to interact with each other across domains in a “speed-dating” activity.

9:00 AM Climate Change & AI

Introduction by Priya Donti, Climate Change AI

Ibrahim Yusuf, AfriClimate AI

Informative session about climate change & AI, including:

- Discussion of Project Angalia and how grantees might be able to contribute datasets to this effort.
- InstaGeo tutorial on satellite data processing

10:30 AM Earth Observation Demo

Dan Hammer, Clay

- Demonstration of earth observation capabilities with Clay, an interactive webapp using a large open-source and open-data AI foundation model.

10:40 AM Coffee Break

11:00 AM Gender, Human Rights & AI Bias

Caitlin Kraft-Buchman, Women at the Table

This fast paced and engaging session is focused on how gender and human rights concerns are already playing out in our newest technology and the climate front.

- This talk and lively interaction with grantees will pose some of the essential questions we can ask ourselves as we make tech that changes the world. The tech we make, the data we choose, the models we design are all interwoven in how rights are expressed (or repressed).
- Based on the “AI & Equality” Human Rights Toolbox platform, built originally in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), with a jupyter notebook filled with code and fairness metrics developed at EPFL (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne) in Switzerland.

12:00 PM Lunch

Ballroom C, Martinique Hotel

1:00 PM Communications Activity

Ballroom AB, Martinique Hotel

Katrina Gehman, Lacuna Fund Secretariat

Brief interactive communications activity to allow grantees to engage in Climate Week and raise awareness about Lacuna Fund datasets.

- Grantees will brainstorm creative social media post(s) about the Grantee Convening, Climate Week, and their projects.
- Please come prepared with good-quality photo(s) and/or a short video of your team in action for a social media post. This could include your team collecting or annotating data, photos in the field or with the community, or any workshops or events your team has attended. For any photos you plan to use or post – please ensure you have received consent from those in the photo. You also have the option to use a photo you take during the Grantee Convening (whether that be a selfie with other grantees or photos of sessions).

1:30 PM Lessons Learned

Rooms TBC, Martinique Hotel

Breakout groups facilitated by Lacuna Fund Secretariat Staff

Grantees will split into three groups by domain to share lessons learned from their projects. Participants will share successes, challenges, and other takeaways.

- Group discussion questions:
 - What successes and challenges did your project experience?
 - Are there any learnings you would like to share with others working to fill data gaps and make ML datasets more representative?
 - What lessons have you learned from sessions at the Grantee Convening (data governance impact assessment, data quality, gender bias, climate & AI, etc.) that will be beneficial for project implementation going forward?
 - Would you do anything differently if you could do it again? If so, what would you change?
- Participants will return to main group to share key takeaways and lessons learned from the different domains (Climate & Energy, Climate & Health, Climate & Forests).

3:00 PM Break & Post-Convening Survey**3:30 PM Closing Circle**

Lacuna Fund Secretariat

- Grantees share key take-aways from Grantee Convening and brainstorm ways to stay connected going forward.

4:00 PM **Adjourn**

4:00 PM **Local Field Trip (Optional)**

[24 The Planet](#), Central Park

- Special opportunity for Lacuna Fund grantees to visit Central Park and cheer on walkers/runners raising awareness to regreen dry and degraded land in Africa.
- Lacuna Fund will provide directions for grantees and partners to take the subway to Central Park.

NYC Climate Week 2024

22 SEPTEMBER 2024 (SUNDAY) - 29 SEPTEMBER 2024 (SUNDAY)

TBD **General Sessions at NYC Climate Week**

- Lacuna Fund grantees who are staying past the Grantee Convening are welcome to attend public sessions at NYC Climate Week 2024 through the official list of [NYC Climate Week events](#). Please see additional handouts and calendar for more information.