

Carlo Merla

Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 20 years of field experience leading programmes and organisations in their effort to promote sustainable development and democratic governance, mainly in Africa and Latin America; • Extensive expertise in civil society strengthening, citizens' engagement, natural resources governance and capacity development • In-depth expertise on public policy analysis and advocacy, multi-stakeholders initiatives • Strategy development, organisation development, M&E and learning, training facilitation • Designing, managing and governing tailored made funding mechanisms • Fluent in English, Spanish, French and some knowledge of Portuguese.
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master in business economics, University of Pisa, Italy, 1999 • Post-graduate studies in social sciences, Universidad de la Cordillera, La Pax, Bolivia, 2003
Countries of field experience	Angola, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Costa Rica, DR Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Niger, Paraguay, Peru, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Zambia

Summary of Experience

Carlo is an international development practitioner and civil society activist with more than 20 years' experience, having served in a variety of roles and functions in local and international NGOs, multi-lateral organisations and as an independent advisor and technical assistant. Multi-lingual (fluent in English, French and Spanish), with a master's degree in business economics and post-graduate studies in social sciences, Carlo has developed solid expertise to successfully promote social change through innovative strategies and partnerships, promoting locally-owned, bottom up development processes and citizens' engagement in different contexts.

All along his career, Carlo has acquired wide experience in democratic governance, civil society strengthening and capacity development working on national level programmes and policy frameworks as well as local development initiatives and community empowerment. Furthermore, governance of natural resources has been a constant focus, proactively engaging to advance transparency, accountability and citizens' participation in the extractive sector, including through the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative at global level and in many implementing countries, particularly in Africa.

Finally, Carlo has strong leadership skills, having led organisations, programmes and teams with a value-driven, impact orientated approach, while ensuring sustainability and fostering accountability.

Employment history

Dates	Main assignments: Job Title & Organization
04/2021 - ongoing	Team Leader, Civil society Roadmap Facility, NIRAS, on behalf of the EU Commission, INTPA G2
09/2018 – 12/2022	Team Leader, Fanainga or Common Fund to Support Civil Society in Madagascar, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ)
07/2018 – 09/2018	Capacity Building Expert, The Botswana Companies and Intellectual Property Authority
03/2018 – 06/2018	Civil society Expert, EPRD, on behalf of EU Delegations to Botswana and Angola
04/2014 – 03/2018	Senior Capacity Building Expert, Egis International, on behalf of Government of Botswana
10/2010 – 05/2014	Africa Coordinator / Senior Programme Manager, Publish What You Pay
06/2010 – 09/2010	Civil society expert, UNDP Cambodia
05/2008 – 09/2009	Principal Technical Assistant/Team Leader, Good governance programme in Equatorial Guinea, Human Dynamics, on behalf of the EU Delegation
05/2006 – 04/2008	Civil society specialist, UNDP Mauritius
10/2002 – 04/2006	Country director (Bolivia) and Regional Coordinator (Andean countries), Association for Rural Cooperation (ACRA)
04/2000 – 05/2002	Country Representative and Project Manager, ACRA, Cameroon and Chad
06/1998 – 02/2000	Social worker (homeless), Il Simbolo, Pisa, Italy
06/1997 – 12/1997	Traineeship, PRODESCO, Costa Rica
1990 – 1997	Street social worker, Caritas, Pisa, Italy

Carlo Merla

Selected Experiences

Civil society Roadmaps Facility, 2021-2022

Leading a technical assistance facility to support EU headquarters (INTPA G2) and EU Delegations in partner countries on the EU engagement with civil society, including the development, implementation and review of country strategies, mainstreaming of civil society in EU priority areas, defending and promoting civic space, enhancing EU-CSOs dialogue in partner countries, enhancing CSOs sustainability.

Fanainga, Fonds Commun Multi-Bailleurs d'appui à la société civile Malagasy, 2018-2022

Led a multi-donor programme aiming at reinforcing civil society organizations as change agents.

Empowerment of Non State Actors in Botswana, 2014-2018

Enhanced roles and capacities of CSOs and civil society networks to engage with government, influence policy and promote sustainable development.

Publish What You Pay, 2010-2014

Coordinated and developed the PWYP coalition in Africa and beyond, enhancing its capacity and legitimacy to advocate for transparency and accountability in the extractive sector. This included a strong engagement in the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) at global level, ensuring coordination and effective engagement of CS board members and contributing to the adoption of the 2013 Standard; and at country level, providing guidance and building capacities of civil society, EITI national secretariats and Multi-Stakeholders Groups, promoting dialogue among the different actors, while facilitating conflict resolution and enhancing coordination among supporting institutions.

Good Governance Programme in Equatorial Guinea, 2008-2009

Coordination and provision of technical assistance in a programme aiming at promoting decentralization, strengthening civil society and developing capacities of CSOs and local governments.

Strengthening of the NGO Sector in Mauritius, UNDP, 2006-2008

Promoting NGO sector through capacity building, legal review, enhancing partnership with private sector and corporate social responsibility, contributing to national policy on poverty reduction

Bolivia Country Director & South America Regional Coordinator, ACRA, 2002-2006

Provided strategic, operational and thought leadership to enhance local communities voice and resilience on issues related to sustainable livelihoods, land, natural resources and water, climate change.

Volunteer history

Dates	Title & Organization
Since 2015	Chair of the Board of trustees, Publish What You Pay
Since 2001	Founder, Sana Logone, Yagoua, Cameroon
Since 1996	Founder, Friends of the Street, Pisa, Italy