

Russo Mnene

Russo Mnene is an entrepreneur in commercial and development finance. He has over 20 years of experience as a former banker and is currently financial services lead at [Paraclete Consult](#), a Kenyan financial advisory services firm that helps organizations crowd in development finance on social impact projects. Russo has worked to catalyse private sector participation in development activities with special focus on the financial services industry working towards catalysing Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM), staff training/capacity building, and liaison services for public-private development partnerships. In this capacity Mr. Mnene has worked towards crowding in finance in various socio-economic sectors, primarily in Health and Food, Energy, Environment and the Water Nexus. He has raised over \$210m in funding for a diverse range of organizations.

As a co-founder of [CA-Creative](#) Russo Mnene is focused on developing smart water data solutions for the water value chain with an approach that promotes automation adaptability, efficiency, functionality, reliability, safety, and usability of water systems. CA-Creative is incubated within a multi-disciplinary consortium led by the [Centre for Science and Technology Innovations](#) (CSTI) focused on identifying growth opportunities and developing innovation frameworks within its specialty areas of Green chemistry and industrial applications, Science Digitalization & Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Circular Bioeconomy Biogenic Materials Innovation & Design for Society and Industrial Ecology Science as a Service.

Russo serves as a CSTI Advisory Board member for Digitalization and SME Capacity Building activities, with specific duties in identifying linkages between science-as-service, digital platforms, and indigenous knowledge systems.

As a member and advisor to the [Imbaria Community Group](#), he has worked to build the capacity of Imbaria to engage in sustainable livelihoods by adopting a Biodiversity Business approach leveraging sustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries, natural products, ecotourism, ecosystem services, bio-diversity offsets and bio-prospecting.