



Managing Director, Strategic Communications for Namati

JUNE 2026

In partnership with:



Overview

Seeking a visionary leader to grow the global movement for grassroots justice

Namati advances social and environmental justice by building a movement of people who know, use, and shape the law. The Managing Director, Strategic Communications, will lead Namati’s global communications strategy, establishing it as an unignorable voice on democracy and climate. This role calls for a visionary, strategic, and collaborative leader with strong storytelling, media, and team leadership experience. This is an opportunity to shape global narratives, grow a grassroots justice movement, and drive meaningful impact at scale.



Details

LOCATION:	Nairobi, Kenya or United States (CA, CO, CT, DC, GA, IL, MD, MA, NJ, NY, PA, WA)
CLOSING DATE:	2 July 2026
STARTING DATE:	ASAP
TYPE OF CONTRACT:	Permanent
SALARY:	Depending on location: US: \$150,000 - \$185,000; Kenya: KES 11,100,000 - 14,000,000 + benefits
REFERENCE:	N-MDC
CLIENT WEBSITE:	https://namati.org/



About the Managing Director, Strategic Communications

Namati is looking for a communications visionary who can help them meet this moment. You will work closely with the CEO, Vivek Maru, and the rest of the Namati team to establish Namati as an unignorable voice in global conversations on democracy and climate. You will engage diverse constituencies to invite action, solidarity, and participation in the movement for grassroots justice.

As Managing Director of Strategic Communications, you will lead a growing, values-driven team to drive high-quality execution across all types of content, including written, visual, and multimedia. You will be responsible for elevating Namati's voice, generating meaningful relationships with media and global changemakers, and guiding public-facing strategy for campaigns, thought leadership, and product launches. This role requires balancing decentralized program communications with cohesive organizational storytelling that reflects Namati's collective voice and values. The ideal candidate will bring vision, strategic clarity, and disciplined execution, anchored by direct engagement (and regular travel) with our teams and allies globally.

Who You Are

- **A strategic architect who connects the dots others can't see.** Across borders, movements, and issues, you weave disparate threads into a galvanizing narrative that can move institutions, shift resources, and drive collective action at scale.
- **A collaborator and coach.** You lead with humility, confidence, and empathy. You bring out the best in others and foster a culture of excellence, accountability, curiosity, and joy.
- **A storyteller with moral conviction.** You help Namati tell the biggest story possible about our work. You bring heart and clarity to complex issues and translate grassroots realities for global audiences without losing nuance. Your stories shift people's sense of what's possible.
- **Media savvy and digitally fluent.** You have warm relationships that span the media ecosystem. You know what will break through the noise and what will sustain momentum across platforms and news cycles.



Experience & Qualifications

Namati is looking for vision, dynamism, and a proven track record of bold impact.

- 12+ years of professional experience, including proven experience leading strategic communications strategies and teams, ideally at a mission-driven organization. Deep expertise in campaigns and media is also required. At least 5 years of demonstrated experience in the responsibilities outlined below.
- Experience managing high-performing, diverse teams across wide geographies.
- Experience developing and executing media strategy to shape policy and public discourse, proactively securing high-impact placements.
- Experience navigating complex political, operational, and interpersonal dynamics. Bonus if you have led rapid-response and crisis communications.
- You write with clarity, specificity, and moral force. You have published in prominent outlets, and you are an excellent editor.
- Experience overseeing digital strategy, building a substantial audience, and converting that audience into meaningful engagement. If you have grown an engaged following or membership by an order of magnitude, we are especially interested in speaking with you.
- Native or near-native fluency in English; additional languages and visual storytelling skills are a plus.
- Prior experience in legal empowerment, human rights, environmental justice, or international development is strongly preferred.



Responsibilities

Lead a global strategy grounded in local realities

- Architect and drive a communications strategy that establishes Namati and the Grassroots Justice Network as an authoritative voice on community-led solutions to democracy and climate crises, shaping how global institutions, media, and movements understand and invest in grassroots justice
- Closely partner with other senior leaders at Namati (including the CEO and COO) to ensure that the communications strategy and organizational strategy are closely aligned and responsive to each other.
- Set and drive bold visibility goals that position Namati and the Grassroots Justice Network as leading voices in the global democracy and climate space, including tailored strategies for key audiences such as civic associations, policy makers, funders, businesses, and global institutions.
- Develop and lead, where appropriate, strategic initiatives to grow the movement of grassroots justice advocates and its supporters, such as launching a multimedia magazine or a signature global event for grassroots justice.
- Collaborate closely with cross-cutting and country program teams to shape the storyline, framing, and presentation of new learning and research about legal empowerment and grassroots justice, ensuring it resonates with diverse audiences and supports the Grassroots Justice Network Academy's goals.

Lead a high-performing team and build a strong editorial culture

- Oversee and grow a world-class, globally distributed communications team of 5 that collaborates with nearly all teams at Namati and covers areas such as media and campaigns, creative and strategic communications, and digital impact and strategy. Foster a culture of excellence, creativity, and accountability. Ensure the team has the resources they need to execute the strategy with excellence.

- Set the standard for high-impact writing, personally authoring high-stakes content such as key press releases or features, while guiding teams to craft high-quality written work that reflects Namati's values and advances strategic goals.
- Ensure that systems for collaboration, learning, and performance tracking are aligned with strategic goals—even when you are not in the weeds day-to-day.

Grow the movement for grassroots justice through media and public engagement

- Cultivate and manage high-value relationships with journalists, influencers, high-profile advocates, and narrative leaders to elevate the profile of Vivek, Namati, the Grassroots Justice Network Academy, and legal empowerment.
- Lead media strategy and crisis communications, including reputational risk anticipation and response planning.
- Serve as a senior spokesperson for the organization. Coach other colleagues – including community paralegals, program leads, and executive leadership – to speak and write publicly with confidence and clarity.
- Shape strategy and public narrative for time-bound campaigns and advocacy surges that command public attention, in collaboration with Namati teams and external partners.
- Lead audience-specific marketing strategy for the Grassroots Justice Network Academy, including marketing for income-generating products.
- Guide the public positioning of Namati's CEO and executive team, including promotion of the CEO's forthcoming book.
- Partner with our Resource Mobilization team to develop content and messaging that resonates with institutional funders and individual donors, and to secure dedicated funding for strategic communications work.

Here's what you might have tackled last month:

- Provided strategic input on the global land, environment, and climate team's private sector-facing communications campaign, highlighting the importance of community leadership and rights in carbon projects.
- Led a collaborative envisioning session with the Network, Strategic Engagement, Resource Mobilization, and country teams to shape the creative vision for the next phase of the Grassroots Justice Network Academy.
- Traveled to Freetown, Sierra Leone to align with program staff and partners on regional and global storytelling priorities and listen for emerging narratives from the field.
- Secured a feature in The Guardian highlighting Namati's carbon justice work, after weeks of relationship-building with a key journalist and coordinating interviews with frontline advocates across multiple countries.
- Spoke on a global panel alongside climate and democracy leaders, positioning Namati as a leader in legal empowerment and generating new inquiries from media and funders.
- Provided detailed editorial feedback on an op-ed co-authored by a community paralegal and Namati's CEO, as part of a broader effort to elevate frontline voices in global media.



Location & Travel

Namati is looking for a successful candidate to be based in Nairobi, Kenya, or one of the following locations in the United States: CA, CO, CT, DC, GA, IL, MD, MA, NJ, NY, PA, or WA.

Please note that US-based candidates must already be legally eligible to work in the United States to be considered for the role; Namati cannot sponsor visas.

If the successful candidate is based in/near Washington DC or Nairobi, they will follow Namati's hybrid office policy, which calls for staff to report to the office two days per week between Tuesday and Thursday.

The role requires up to 20% travel, including internationally. Travel requirements may change over time based on evolving priorities. The successful candidate will be expected to sometimes work non-standard hours to accommodate the various time zones of Namati's teams.

Compensation Package

Ranges listed represent offer ranges. Namati bases its compensation on the markets where our staff operate. Throughout the hiring process, understanding a candidate's specific skills, experience and abilities as they relate to Namati's team and job levels will be key. Pay and responsibilities will be finalized based on the qualifications, experience, and country location of the person joining. Namati also offers excellent benefits.

While the exact terms vary somewhat by location, they always include health coverage, generous paid time off, contributions to retirement or old-age plans, sick leave, and parental leave. All staff also have access to funds for professional development opportunities.



About Namati

Namati advances a fairer, more sustainable world by building a movement of people who know, use, and shape the law. Namati works deeply in seven countries—from Myanmar to the United States—and convenes the world's largest network of justice defenders, with members in 185 countries.

In the face of grave threats to democracy and our planet, Namati is getting creative and going big. Recent wins include [the abolition](#) of a decades-old discriminatory ID system in Kenya and a [re-write](#) of the global rules governing carbon projects. This year they've launched the [Grassroots Justice Network Academy](#), with a goal of strengthening movements in 100 countries.

Namati has been featured in [The New York Times](#), [The Washington Post](#), [The American Journal of Law and Equality](#), TED, DW, [The Economist](#), [Amanpour & Co.](#), [The Baltimore Sun](#), [The Telegraph](#), and [Open Global Rights](#), among other outlets. Namati has received the [Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship](#), the [Global Pluralism Award](#), and the [2030 Racial Equity Prize](#), among other honors. [Documentaries](#) about Namati's work have been screened at film festivals, government offices, museums, in communities, and beyond.

As Namati moves into its next phase, they are growing its global team of passionate, results-oriented, big-hearted advocates, united by a common mission and a strong culture, which [you can read more about here](#).



How to apply

PIQUED YOUR INTEREST?

To apply for this role, please prepare your CV (in English) and a motivation letter (one page) that summarizes how your profile aligns with the key requirements, skills and abilities of this role. **Please include links to your writing or published articles in your CV.** Both files should be submitted in .doc(x) or .rtf format via this form: <https://mis.tl/cv>.

If you require reasonable accommodation in completing this application, interviewing, completing any pre-employment testing, or otherwise participating in the employee selection process, please contact **Mission Talent**.

After submitting your application, you will receive an automated confirmation. If you do not receive this or have general questions about submitting your application, please write to **Mission Talent**.





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Mission Talent is a women-led, multicultural executive search firm with nearly 20 years of experience serving impact-driven organisations. Rooted in lived experience across the Global South, we bring sector expertise and a values-based approach to leadership recruitment and assessment. Our work is grounded in both global insight and local knowledge, with a commitment to lasting, transformative impact.

Contact us: wewontbite@missiontalent.com

