



Meet the Speakers

Session 1.3 | THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2020, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT
NATURE FOR WATER



HOST & MODERATOR
KELLY MCEVERS

Kelly McEvers is a two-time Peabody Award-winning journalist and former host of NPR's flagship newsmagazine, All Things Considered. She spent much of her career as an international correspondent, reporting from Asia, the former Soviet Union, and the Middle East. She is the creator and host of the acclaimed Embedded podcast, a documentary show that goes to hard places to make sense of the news. She began her career as a newspaper reporter in Chicago. Kelly McEvers is the narrator of PBS's new documentary 'H2O'.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
MINA GULI
CEO, THIRST

Named one of Fortune's 50 Greatest Leaders on the planet, Mina is a world renowned adventurer, athlete and water advocate. Trained as a lawyer, Mina has multiple world firsts to her name, running ultra long distances across some of the most extreme places in our world: from the Amazon to Antarctica, the Atacama to the Aral Sea – all for one reason, her true passion – water. Mina has spoken at; the UN the World Economic Forum and has been featured in hundreds of online, print & broadcast media, with her water saving messages, reaching billions of people across the globe.



SPEAKER

AUDREY AZOULAY

DIRECTOR-GENERAL, UNESCO

Elected head of UNESCO in 2017, Audrey Azoulay launched a vast Strategic Transformation programme for the Organization with a view to position UNESCO at the heart of emerging challenges in the XXI century. In this spirit, the Director-General launched several major projects on the protection of cultural heritage (through the initiative “Revive the Spirit of Mosul” in Iraq), on the achievement of universal quality education (in particular for girls and women), as well as on UNESCO's role as a global laboratory of ideas (on artificial intelligence and its ethical implications).

A former student of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration, Audrey Azoulay is a graduate of the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris and holds a Diploma of Business Administration from the University of Lancaster (United Kingdom). As the French Minister of Culture, she was very strongly committed to the protection of endangered heritage, particularly in the Middle East. Audrey Azoulay is committed to positioning UNESCO as a platform for humanist cooperation, as a standards-producing arena and as an agency of experts that helps to disseminate knowledge and know-how throughout the world to the greatest number of people."



SPEAKER

HENK OVINK

SPECIAL ENVOY FOR INTERNATIONAL WATER AFFAIRS, KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

Henk Ovink was appointed in 2015 as the first Special Envoy for International Water Affairs. As the Ambassador for Water, he is responsible for advocating water awareness around the world. Ovink is Sherpa to the UN / World Bank High Level Panel on Water. He served on President Obama's Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force. Prior, Ovink was Acting Director General of Spatial Planning and Water Affairs and Director National Spatial Planning for the Netherlands. Henk teaches at Harvard GSD, the London School of Economics and the University of Groningen. In January 2018 Ovink was awarded an honorary membership from the Royal Institute of Engineers of the Netherlands.



SPEAKER

WADE CROWFOOT

SECRETARY, CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

Wade Crowfoot was appointed California Secretary for Natural Resources by Governor Gavin Newsom in January 2019. As a member of the Governor's cabinet, he advises the Governor on natural resources and environmental issues. Crowfoot brings over two decades of public policy and environmental leadership to the office, with expertise in water, fisheries, climate and sustainability issues. Prior to joining the foundation, Crowfoot served in Governor Jerry Brown's Administration as deputy cabinet secretary and senior advisor to the Governor. Crowfoot received a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1996 and earned a master's degree in public policy from the London School of Economics in 2004, where he graduated with honors.



SPEAKER

ELIM SRITABA

CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER, ASIA PULP & PAPER SINAR MAS

Elim Sritaba is the Chief Sustainability Officer of Asia Pulp & Paper (APP), one of the leading forestry, pulp and paper companies globally. She was responsible for leading the implementation of APP's Forest Conservation Policy (FCP) at Sinar Mas Forestry since its launch in 2013. She currently serves on the board of Indonesian Global Compact Network. Elim, was previously the Director of Strategic Corporate Relation & Human Resources at Sinar Mas Forestry, which manages APP's pulpwood suppliers and in addition to that, she also led the coordination of three huge divisions consisting of communication strategy, government relation and sustainability. Elim has over 20 years of experience across finance, forestry as well as supply chain and business process management & business strategy.



SPEAKER

EUNICE HEATH

CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY, DOW

Eunice Heath serves as corporate director for Sustainability at Dow. She leads the coordinated planning and implementation of the 2025 Sustainability Goals, as well as sustainability integration and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) reporting disclosure cross the company. Heath joined Dow in 1991 and has worked in a myriad of Marketing, Sales, Supply Chain, Government Affairs and Business Leadership roles throughout her career. She is a recipient of the 2011 Women of Distinction by the Philadelphia Business Journal, 2017 Honoree of Forty Women to Watch Over 40 by Forbes Media and a 2020 Honoree of 25 Women Shaking Up the Climate Movement by GreenBiz.



SPEAKER

SRONGPOL CHANTHARUEANG

CHAIR, BOON RUEANG WETLAND FOREST CONSERVATION GROUP

Mr. Srongpol was born in Boon Rueang village located in Chiang Khong district, Chiang Rai province in the northern Thailand. His recognition as the local leader emerged during the community mobilization against the conversion of communal wetland forest into Special Economic Zone in 2015. Given the strong support from all the villagers, Mr. Srongpol was appointed as the Chair of Boon Rueang Wetland Forest Conservation Group to lead the coordination and advocacy with multiple stakeholders and policy makers. The Group was successful in preventing the use of the wetland for industrial purposes and creating local development policy impacts. The Equator Prize award 2020 thence acknowledges this success for Boon Rueang.



SPEAKER

STUART ORR

FRESH WATER PRACTICE LEADER, WWF

Stuart Orr is the Leader of WWF's Freshwater Practice based in Switzerland. His team is over 450 freshwater professionals working in over 65 countries. He has spent the past decade devising and testing innovative approaches to freshwater conservation by engaging business and finance, and focussing on emerging themes such as the water-food-energy nexus, economic incentives, bankable financing and water-related risk. He has written numerous scientific papers and publications on issues ranging from corporate water governance to fish protein. Stuart holds an MSc in Environment and Development from the School of International Development at the University of East Anglia, UK.



SPEAKER

ULRIKE SAPIRO

GLOBAL SENIOR DIRECTOR WATER & AGRICULTURE, THE COCA-COLA COMPANY

Ulrike Sapiro leads global strategies, system leadership and external engagement in the key sustainability areas of water stewardship and agricultural ingredients sourcing at The Coca-Cola Company. Prior to this role, Ulrike lead environment and social sustainability at The Company's Western Europe and the Europe, Middle East & Africa region. Prior to joining Coca-Cola, Ulrike held sustainability and external affairs roles at RWE Thames Water, an international water utility. Ulrike is currently serving on the Steering Board of the '2030Water Resources Group', the Supervisory Board of 'Wetlands International' and the Board of Trustees for 'Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor' (WSUP).



SPEAKER

KATE BRAUMAN

**LEAD SCIENTIST, GLOBAL WATER INITIATIVE,
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, INSTITUTE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND '20-'21
AAAS STPF CLIMATE AND WATER RESILIENCE FELLOW, US DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE**

Dr. Kate Brauman is a '20-'21 AAAS Science Technology Policy at the US Department of Defense. At the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment, Dr. Brauman is the Lead Scientist for the Global Water Initiative and part of the Natural Capital Project. Brauman's research includes projects on watershed ecosystem services, "crop per drop", and water scarcity. Brauman received her doctorate from Stanford University. She was a Coordinating Lead Author for the Global Assessment of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), a Lead Author for the UNEP Global Synthesis Report, and a 2018 AAAS Leshner Leadership Fellow for Public Engagement.



MODERATOR

SOPHIE TRÉMOLET

EUROPE WATER SECURITY DIRECTOR, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Sophie Trémolet is Europe Water Security Europe Director for The Nature Conservancy. Prior to joining The Nature Conservancy in 2018, she had worked for 20 years on issues of financing, institutional and regulatory reforms and private sector participation in the water sector. She started her career as a consultant working for NERA (an economic consultancy) and ERM (an environmental consultancy) before setting up and running a consultancy specialised on economic and financial aspects of the water sector. She then joined the World Bank as a Senior Economist in the Water Global Practice, where she led the preparation and supervised projects in West Africa, contributed to establishing a new multi-donor Trust Fund and developed the Bank's approaches and tools in the area of blended finance for water.



SPEAKER

STEPHEN HART

SENIOR INVESTMENT OFFICER, EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

Mr. Stephen Hart is the focal point for the Natural Capital Financing Facility, a joint EC-EIB financial instrument for biodiversity and nature-based climate adaptation. He began his career in municipal administration, followed by engineering consultancy in Eastern Europe and Russia. He joined EIB in 2005, preparing and appraising water and environmental projects worldwide for 10 years. He was Head of the EIB Copenhagen Office and covered Arctic affairs until 2019. He holds degrees in engineering and finance.



SPEAKER

GILLES KLEITZ

DIRECTEUR, AGRICULTURE, EAU, BIODIVERSITÉ TRANSITION ÉCOLOGIQUE ET RESSOURCES NATURELLES, DOE/NAT

Gilles KLEITZ (PhD) has been working for thirty years on the links between biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. He has conducted policies and projects in different countries, including France, for the public service, research institutions, non-governmental organizations and at Agence Française de Développement. He has been advisor to several ministers, in the field of environment as well as overseas development aid. He has participated in several international negotiations. He was the director of the French Guyana National Park. Gilles KLEITZ is Senior Civil Engineer, MSc (Agronomy) and holds a doctorate in Development sciences from IDS/Sussex University. He was made Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur. He is presently director for Biodiversity, Water, Agriculture and Oceans at the Agence Française de Développement, in Paris.



SPEAKER

XANTHEA LIMBURG

COUNCILOR, CITY OF CAPE TOWN

Alderman Xanthea Limberg is currently the Mayoral Committee Member for Water and Waste. She also sits on the Planning Appeals Advisory Panel as well as other specialised task teams and previously held the posts of Mayoral Committee Member for Informal Settlements, Water, Waste Services and Energy and Mayoral Committee Member for Corporate Services and Compliance. Prior to being a Member of the Mayoral Committee, she previously served as Portfolio Chairperson for Economic Development, Environment and Spatial Planning as well as the Energy and Climate Change Committee. Furthermore she is also the City's representative on the SALGA National Executive Council.

(*Alderman is a title bestowed on a Councillor for 10 years continuous service at a high level.)



CLOSING REMARKS

ANDREA ERICKSON-QUIROZ

GLOBAL DIRECTOR FOR WATER SECURITY, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Andrea Erickson-Quiroz serves as Global Director for Water Security at The Nature Conservancy. She leads a TNC's team working to identify, test and deploy innovative, large-scale strategies that demonstrate how investments in nature will enable us to secure the water we need to prosper. Andrea has over twenty years of experience in the design, management, and leadership of conservation programs. Her work includes strategic identification of conservation opportunities; collaborative planning and project development in a variety of institutional arrangements; government and partner relationship management; fundraising and financial sustainability. She has a BS from Cornell University and MPhil from Cambridge University.

