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## Meet the Experts

SESSION 1 | MONDAY 20 JULY 2020

HOW CAN WE GET NATURE ON THE FINANCE AGENDA AND POSITION NATURE IN A GREEN RECOVERY?



### *Host & Moderator*

**SUSAN GARDNER**

DIRECTOR  
UNEP ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION

Ms. Susan Gardner has over two decades of experience in science and environmental policy, having worked previously for both the United States and Mexican governments. Prior to her current position, she was a senior official in the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration focused on fisheries science and ocean conservation.

Ms. Gardner has worked on several multilateral agreements, based on her contributions to the Minamata Convention on Mercury she was awarded the Gold Medal for Exceptional Services from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Her research has generated over 30 publications including a book and book chapters on topics related to ecology, toxicology, fisheries management and species conservation. She recently led the facilitation team of Nature-based Solutions track of the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit



### *Welcome Address*

**OMAR SHAIKH**

FOUNDER, GLOBAL ETHICAL FINANCE INITIATIVE

Omar is the managing director of the Global Ethical Finance Initiative. A chartered Accountant by profession, he specialises in ethical finance, Islamic finance and private equity. He has advised, and trained, multiple governments on their capital markets, banking, pension and insurance regulation and is a regular speaker at ethical finance conferences and events. Omar's background includes working with EY as a Subject Matter Expert for Islamic finance. Through his work at developmental body UKIFC, Omar launched the award-winning Edinburgh Ethical Finance Round Table series, leading to the inception of the Ethical Finance Hub and Global Ethical Finance Initiative.



## **Welcome Address**

### **INGER ANDERSEN**

**UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

Inger Andersen was appointed Executive Director of the UNEP by UN Secretary-General António Guterres in February 2019.

Between 2015 and 2019, Ms. Andersen was the Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Ms. Andersen brings a passion for conservation and sustainable development with more than 30 years of experience in international development economics, environmental sustainability and policy making, as well as in designing and implementing projects and generating on-the-ground impact. She has played a key role in supporting riparian countries on international water management and hydro diplomacy.

Prior to joining IUCN, Ms. Andersen held various leadership roles at the World Bank and United Nations. Most recently, she was Vice President of the Middle East and North Africa at the World Bank, and before that Vice President for Sustainable Development and Head of the CGIAR Fund Council. Throughout Ms. Andersen's 15-year career at the World Bank, her managerial roles focused on water, environment, and sustainable development with special emphasis on Africa and the Middle East. Before the World Bank, Ms. Andersen worked at the United Nations for 12 years, starting in the UN Sudano-Sahelian Office working on drought and desertification issues, and was then appointed UNDP's Water and Environment Coordinator for the Arab Region.

Ms. Andersen's educational background includes a BA from London Metropolitan University North and a MA degree from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London with specialization in development economics.



## **Keynote Speaker**

### **OLAF SLEIJPEN**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT DE NEDERLANDSCHE BANK N.V. (DNB)**

Prof. Dr. Olaf C.H.M. Sleijpen (1970) is Executive Director at De Nederlandsche Bank N.V. (DNB), responsible for economics and research, financial stability, payments and market infrastructure, financial markets and statistics. Olaf is also an alternate member of the Governing Council of the European Central Bank (ECB). Since 2007, he has also been part-time professor, holding an endowed chair in European Economic Policy at Maastricht University.

Olaf was Director of Insurance Supervision at DNB from October 2018 to early 2020, Director of Supervision Policy, from 2015 until October 2018 and Director of Pension Supervision from 2011 to 2015.



**Moderator**  
**CASSIE FLYNN**

**SENIOR ADVISOR ON CLIMATE CHANGE, UNDP & HEAD OF UNDP'S CLIMATE PROMISE**

Ms. Susan Cassie Flynn is the Senior Advisor on Climate Change in the Executive Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Head of UNDP's Climate Promise. Cassie is an internationally recognized expert on the international treaty negotiations on climate change and provides advice to countries on how to develop and fulfill their pledges under the Paris Agreement. In 2017 – 2018, she served as the Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister of Fiji in his role as COP23 President.

Cassie earned her master's degree from Yale University and undergraduate degrees from Bowdoin College. She has published "Blending Climate Finance through National Climate Funds" and "South-Originating Green Finance: Exploring the Potential."



**Panelist**  
**PHILIPPE ZAOUATI**

**CEO OF MIROVA**

Philippe Zaouati is CEO of Mirova, a subsidiary of Natixis IM specialising in sustainable finance as well as founder and chairman of the think tank Osons le Progrès. He has also launched the cooperative initiative ReCOVeRY. He is the author of several books, including Investir « responsable » : en quête de nouvelles valeurs pour la finance (Lignes de Repères, 2009), Positive Finance: A Toolkit for Responsible Transformation, co-authored with Hervé Guez (Greenleaf, 2014) et de Paris, the Kilometer Zero of Green Finance (Rue de l'Échiquier, 2018).



**Panelist**  
**BROOKE BARTON**

**VICE PRESIDENT, INNOVATION & EVALUATION, CERES**

As Vice President of Innovation and Evaluation, Brooke oversees Ceres' efforts to accelerate organizational learning and innovation. Previously, Brooke launched Ceres' Water and Food & Forest programs, directing the organization's strategy for mobilizing leading investors and companies to address the sustainability risks facing our freshwater, food, and agriculture systems.

Prior to Ceres, Brooke was a researcher for the Harvard Business School's Social Enterprise Initiative, with a focus on the integration of business strategy and sustainability. She holds a master's degree from Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and a bachelor's degree in economics from Duke University.



**Panelist**

**STEPHEN HIBBERT**

**MANAGING DIRECTOR,  
GLOBAL LEAD, ENERGY TRANSITION, | ENERGY SECTOR  
ING WHOLESALE BANKING**

Stephen is a member of ING's global management team for the Energy Sector, with responsibility for Energy Transition. Working with clients and colleagues he strives to balance three leading factors in business strategy:

Growth – seeking commercial opportunities to accelerate energy transition.

Risk – the impact of climate change risks (transition and physical) on our business.

Alignment – the impact our business has on action to combat climate change.

Until December 2019, he Chaired the United Nations Environment Programme – Finance Initiative's Banking Committee which initiated the Principles of Responsible Banking, launched at the UN General Assembly 2019 with one-third of the global banking sector as Signatories: <https://www.unepfi.org/banking/bankingprinciples>.



**Panelist**

**DIANDRA SOOBIAH**

**HEAD OF RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT  
NEST PENSIONS**

Diandra Soobiah is responsible for the delivery and implementation of Nest's Responsible Investment approach. She ensures Nest's investment approach factors in material environmental, social and governance risks and opportunities. Diandra makes sure we fulfil our role as a responsible steward of our members' assets in order to deliver the best financial outcomes for our members. Diandra has 14 years of investment experience including at Nedgroup Investments and Russell Investments. She holds a BA (Hons) in Business Studies and French from Queen Mary University of London and has passed CAIA level 1 and the IMC.



**Panelist**

**VERONICA SCOTTI**

**CHAIRPERSON PUBLIC SECTOR SOLUTIONS, SWISS RE  
GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR**

Veronica Scotti was appointed Chairperson Swiss Re Public Sector Solutions in July 2018, following her tenure as Swiss Re President & CEO of Canada & the English Caribbean. Veronica Scotti joined Swiss Re in 1999 gaining experience in asset management, strategy, risk management and alternative risk transfer products. Since 2007, Veronica has held various client-facing positions based first in Switzerland and then in the US, where she had global responsibility for some of Swiss Re's largest multinational clients. Prior to joining Swiss Re, Veronica worked in investment banking in the UK, Switzerland, and Italy. She holds an MBA from the SDA Bocconi School of Management in Milan, and a master's degree in International Commerce from the Naval University Institute (now Parthenope University), Naples, Italy

Public Sector Solutions is committed to helping national, provincial and municipal governments, public entities as well as international organisations develop innovative risk transfer solutions to strengthen societal resilience. Public Sector Solutions promote financial inclusion by improving access to insurance for risk-exposed low-income communities.

The Swiss Re Group is one of the world's leading providers of reinsurance, insurance, and other forms of insurance-based risk transfer, working to make the world more resilient. It anticipates and manages risk – from natural catastrophes to climate change, from ageing populations to cybercrime.



### ***Closing Remarks***

#### **ACHIM STEINER**

**ADMINISTRATOR, UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)**

Mr. Steiner was born in Brazil in 1961 and is a German diplomat and expert in environmental policies. He studied in the UK and holds a Degree from Oxford University and a master's from London University, with a major in Development Economics, Regional Planning, International Development and Environmental Policy. He also studied at the German Development Institute in Berlin and at Harvard Business School. Achim Steiner was Director-General of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) from 2006 to 2016 and has been Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since 2017. Prior to taking up this position, Mr. Steiner was Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the largest environmental network in the world, gathering government agencies and non-governmental organizations from 140 countries. During his career, he has worked for governmental, non-governmental and international organizations. In Washington, where he was Policy Advisor to the Global Policy Unit at the IUCN, he led the development of new partnerships between the environmental community and World Bank, as well with the United Nations system. In 1998, he was appointed Secretary-General of the World Commission on Dams based in South Africa, where he managed an international program which aims to get the private and public sectors and civil society to work together in the context of a global policy on dams and development.

SESSION 2 | TUESDAY, 21 JULY 2020

HOW CAN DISCLOSURE OF NATURE-RELATED FINANCIAL RISKS OPEN THE DOOR TO SUSTAINABLE FINANCING?



### ***Host & Moderator***

#### **MIDORI PAXTON**

**HEAD OF ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY PROGRAMME UNDP**

Midori Paxton has been the UNDP Head of Ecosystem and Biodiversity Programme based in New York since 2016. She is responsible for a large portfolio of biodiversity projects, comprising approximately 300 projects in 130 countries, including projects that support strengthening protected area systems, protected area landscape management, community based natural resource management, human wildlife conflict management and wildlife-based local economy. She also co-leads the Lion's Share Initiative that aims to harness power of the advertising sector for generating business and public support for wildlife conservation. Previously, she worked as a Bangkok-based Regional Technical Adviser, providing policy and programming support for countries in Asia. Between 2000 and 2010, she worked in Namibia; much of the time working under the Directorate of Parks and Wildlife Management, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, coordinating the project to strengthen the national protected area system. Midori holds a master's degree in Environment and Development from University of Cambridge, and author of six books and hundreds of published photos and articles.



## **Welcome Address**

### **ELIZABETH MARUMA MREMA**

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, is the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Ms. Mrema has worked with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) for over two decades and was the Director of the Law Division at UNEP which is also responsible for international environmental governance as well as multilateral environmental agreements. Prior to joining the Law Division in June 2014, she was Deputy Director of the Ecosystems Division, in charge of coordination, operations and programme delivery from 2012 and for one year also served as Acting Director to the same Division. In 2018, she was also the Acting Director of the Corporate Services Division. Prior to these, she also served as Executive Secretary of the UNEP/Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) from 2009-2012. Ms. Mrema's work at UNEP has focused on development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws including multilateral environmental agreements at national, regional and international levels, among others. Her various roles over the years include being coordinator of capacity-building and compliance and enforcement projects related to environmental law and the multilateral environmental conventions.



## **Keynote Speaker**

### **LORD GOLDSMITH**

**UK MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE PACIFIC, INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND FORESTS, AND ANIMAL WELFARE**

Born in 1975, Zac Goldsmith grew up in Richmond, where he has lived for most of his life. In the mid nineties, Zac worked for the California-based environmental economics think tank Redefining Progress, before becoming a researcher at the non-profit International Society for Ecology and Culture. In 1998, Zac became editor of the Ecologist magazine, a position he held for nine years. Zac received the Beacon Prize as Young Philanthropist of the Year in 2003; and Mikhail Gorbachev's Green Cross International's Global Green Award for International Environmental Leadership in 2004; Zac's environmental work led to his appointment by the new Conservative party leader David Cameron to co-head the party's environmental policies unit in 2006. Zac was first elected as Member of Parliament for his home seat of Richmond Park and North Kingston in 2010. He was returned to Parliament in the 2015 general election, during which he achieved an 8.5% increase in vote share since 2010: the largest increase in majority of any MP that year.

Zac was selected to be the Conservative candidate in the 2016 London mayoral election and, despite eventually losing to Labour's Sadiq Khan, secured just under a million votes. A staunch opponent of the Heathrow expansion, Zac kept his promise to stand down as Conservative MP in December 2016 in protest at the government's decision to go ahead with the building of the third runway; although he narrowly lost the subsequent by-election – in which he stood as an Independent – he was re-elected six months later at the 2017 General Election. Zac stood again in the 2019 General Election and lost to the Liberal Democrats. Zac was a member of the Environmental Audit Committee for nearly a decade and also championed direct democracy and the rights of voters to recall their MPs. He founded and co chaired the All Party Group on Heathrow expansion and the All Party Group on Female Genital Mutilation. In March 2018, Zac was asked by the Foreign Office and Departments for the Environment and International Development to help coordinate the international illegal wildlife trade conference which was held in London in October. In July 2019, Zac was appointed as the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Department for

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for International Development. Zac's responsibilities included climate change, international environment, the illegal wildlife trade, forests and animal welfare - all issues Zac has campaigned on for many years. Later in September 2019, Zac was promoted to Minister of State for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for International Development attending Cabinet. Zac now sits in the House of Lords and continues as Minister. Outside of his political work, Zac raises significant funds for a wide range of conservation and environmental campaigns.



### *Panel Moderator*

#### **ANDREW W. MITCHELL**

**FOUNDER & SENIOR ADVISER  
NATURAL FINANCE CAPITAL ALLIANCE & GLOBAL CANOPY**

Andrew W. Mitchell is the Founder Director of Global Canopy in Oxford and Senior Adviser to Ecosphere Plus (E+), an impact investment and marketing company specializing in environmental assets. He is an international thought leader on tropical forests, climate change and financing natural capital. He has extensive field experience in Asia, Africa and Latin America, across a forty-year career spanning scientific research, conservation and finance for forests. He works to demonstrate the scientific, political and business case for safeguarding sustainable forests and landscapes as natural capital that underpins water, food, energy, health and climate security for all.



### *Panelist*

#### **ADAM KANZER**

**HEAD OF STEWARDSHIP – AMERICAS BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT**

Adam Kanzer is Head of Stewardship - Americas, at BNP Paribas Asset Management (BNPPAM). He leads our firm's stewardship activities in the region, including direct corporate engagement and proxy voting, working with policymakers on key issues relating to sustainable finance and investment, and representing BNPP AM in key investor ESG networks. Adam joined us in 2018 and is based in New York. Prior to joining us, Adam was Managing Director of Corporate Engagement at Domini Impact Investments. During his 20 years at Domini he built a corporate engagement programme focused on improving the ESG performance of major US corporations, as well as developing Domini's public policy advocacy programme and proxy voting policies. He has a wealth of experience in a broad range of ESG issues, including climate change, deforestation, labour standards, human rights and supply chain management. He has been an active member of a wide variety of ESG networks and organisations and has been instrumental in helping companies to evolve their corporate practices in key areas.

Adam served on the Securities and Exchange Commission's Investor Advisory Committee, and is a founder of the Global Network Initiative, a multi-stakeholder organization addressing threats to freedom of expression and privacy rights in the ICT sector. He currently serves on the Human Rights Advisory Committee of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, and the steering committee of the Investor Alliance for Human Rights. He was a member of the Eminent Persons Group that oversaw development of the UN Guiding Principles Reporting Framework. In 2008, he was named to the Directorship 100, Directorship magazine's listing of the most influential people on corporate governance and in the boardroom. He is a frequent speaker and commentator on sustainable investing and corporate accountability.

Adam began his career as a Litigation Associate at New York law firm Cahill, Gordon & Reindel and has over 20 years of experience. He holds a B.A. in political science from the University of Pennsylvania and a J.D. from Columbia Law School.



**Panelist**  
**BAS RÜTER**

**DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY RABOBANK**

Bas Rüter is Director of Sustainability at Rabobank as of March 2012. He is responsible for the sustainability strategy, the sustainability policy framework, reporting and sustainable business development within Rabobank Group. As part of his function he is also responsible for the partnerships with WWF, initiated the 1 bln USD pledge for forest protection and sustainable agriculture (AGRI3 fund), acts as chair of the finance working group of the Climate Smart Agriculture program of the WBCSD, member of Rabobanks' Ethics Committee, chairman of the supervisory Board of Dutch Greentech Fund and SHIFT Invest, chairman of the jury of the Rabobank Sustainable Innovation awards and chairman of the supervisory board of Rabo Groenbank. He is also member of the board of TKI Agri & Food and the Strategic Advisory Council for Circular Economy and the Environment of TNO. Before joining Rabobank he worked 17 years for Triodos Bank, during the last seven years as managing director of Triodos Investment Management. Bas holds a Master of Science degree in biology of Wageningen University. Bas is married and has two children. Next to his paid work he serves as chairman of Bionext and Stichting Eko-keurmerk and as supervisory board member of Milieu Centraal and the Deltaplan Biodiversity.



**Panelist**  
**ROWAN DOUGLAS**

**HEAD OF CLIMATE AND RESILIENCE HUB WILLIS TOWERS WATSON**

Rowan is Head of the Climate and Resilience Hub at Willis Towers Watson, supporting the management, regulation and financing of risks from climate, terrorism, cyber and other perils. Previously, he served on the Board of the Group's reinsurance division, Willis Re, as CEO Global Analytics and was appointed onto the UK Prime Minister's Council for Science & Technology 2011-2016. He founded the Insurance Development Forum with the World Bank, UN and global industry leaders in 2015 to address the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Agreements. He received a CBE in 2016 for services to the economy through risk, insurance, and sustainable growth.



**Panelist**  
**SONJA GIBBS**

**MANAGING DIRECTOR AND HEAD OF SUSTAINABLE FINANCE  
INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCE (IIF)**

Sonja's research work covers global debt and sovereign debt policy issues, financial stability risks, sustainable finance, and capital markets development in emerging and frontier markets. She oversees the IIF's Weekly Insight, which offers a concise perspective on global financial markets in the context of topical economic and political developments, and the quarterly Global Debt Monitor, which looks across mature and emerging economies for debt-related vulnerabilities such as the rapid buildup in EM corporate debt levels. Sonja leads IIF policy work on sustainable finance and infrastructure investment, including advocacy and liaison efforts vis-à-vis the G20, the multilaterals and the international regulatory community.

Sonja has spent over 20 years in banking and financial markets, most recently with Nomura International in London, where she was Chief Equity Strategist. Previously she was Head of East European Economics and Senior European Bond Analyst, also for Nomura. Earlier positions included U.S. economist and bank credit analyst in New

York and Los Angeles. She has taught undergraduate microeconomics at U.C. Berkeley and spent several years with the Berkeley-Stanford Program on Soviet International Behavior. Sonja's work is widely cited in the financial press, including Bloomberg, the Wall Street Journal and the Financial Times; she is a regular speaker at industry conferences and a commentator for financial television and radio.



***Panelist***

**MARK KENBER**

**CEO OF CLIMATE ADVISERS UK  
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ORBITAS**

Mark Kenber is the CEO of Climate Advisers UK and the Managing Director of Orbitas, a new Centre of Excellence assessing climate transition risks in the tropical commodity sector. Mark has worked on environment, climate and energy issues for over two decades, in government, NGOs and the private sector. Until June 2018 he was Chief Executive of Mongoose Energy Ltd, then the UK's largest developer and manager of community energy projects, before which he had spent twelve years at internationally-renowned NGO, The Climate Group, including six as its Chief Executive. He is currently a board member of Community Energy England, Brighton and Hove Energy Services Coop and Verra, and Chair of the Reneweum Advisory Council and RE100 Advisory Committee.



***Closing Remarks***

**NIGEL TOPPING**

**UK HIGH-LEVEL CLIMATE ACTION CHAMPION**

Nigel Topping is the UK's High-Level Climate Action Champion, appointed by the UK Prime Minister in January 2020. Nigel works alongside the Chilean High-Level Climate Action Champion, Gonzalo Muñoz. The role of the high-level champions is to strengthen collaboration and drive action from businesses, investors, organisations, cities, and regions on climate change, and coordinate this work with governments and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Prior to this Nigel was CEO of We Mean Business, a coalition of businesses working to accelerate the transition to a zero carbon economy.