



Meet the Speakers

Session 2.2 | FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2020, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM EDT
TRANSFORMING FINANCE FOR NATURE



WELCOME REMARKS

MIDORI PAXTON

**HEAD, ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY, NATURE, CLIMATE AND ENERGY,
UNDP**

Midori Paxton is the UNDP Head of Ecosystem and Biodiversity Programme. She is responsible for a large project portfolio in over 130 countries, supporting biodiversity mainstreaming and protected area system, sustainable land management and ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation. She oversees a range of finance initiatives including the Biodiversity Finance Initiatives, support for the Task Force on Nature-Related Financial Disclosure, The Lion’s Share and the Global Fund for Coral Reefs. Midori holds a master’s degree in Environment and Development from University of Cambridge, and an author of six books and hundreds of published photos and articles.



WELCOME REMARKS

MARGARET KUHLOW

ACTING GLOBAL CONSERVATION DIRECTOR & GLOBAL FINANCE PRACTICE LEADER, WWF

Margaret L. Kuhlow leads WWF's Finance Practice, providing strategic direction and thought and content leadership to WWF's global engagement with the finance sector. Before joining WWF, Ms. Kuhlow was Vice President of Investment Policy at the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and was a member of the team that established and implemented the U.S. Government's Millennium Challenge Corporation, leading the new agency's approach to environmental and social assessment of major investment projects. In her 25-year career she has lived and worked extensively in developing and emerging markets, and has broad sectoral experience in sustainable investment, project finance, and grant making. She holds a Master in Public Policy, International Trade and Finance, from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.



MODERATOR

ANDREW MITCHEL

FOUNDER AND SENIOR ADVISER, NATURAL CAPITAL FINANCE ALLIANCE & GLOBAL CANOPY

Andrew W. Mitchell is an international thought leader on natural capital finance and tropical forests. Founder of Equilibrium Futures, he provides strategic advice on natural capital to the finance sector; he is also Senior Adviser to Oxford think tank, Global Canopy, which he founded in 2001. As Founder and Senior Adviser to the Natural Capital Finance Alliance, he helps to design natural capital tools for banks, investors and insurers and is Senior Adviser to Mirova Natural Capital, a global impact investment fund.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

BÉRANGÈRE ABBA

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR BIODIVERSITY, FRANCE

Bérangère Abba is a French politician. Elected municipal councilor of Chaumont in 2014, she joined La République en Marche (LREM) then was elected Member of Parliament in the first district of Haute-Marne during the 2017 legislative elections. Since 2019, she has been secretary of the National Assembly and national delegate to LREM's ecological transition. On July 26, 2020, she was appointed Secretary of State to the Minister of Ecological Transition, in charge of biodiversity. She implements policies relating to protected areas, wildlife, hunting and water management. In charge of international relations, the World Congress of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the preparation of COP 15 in Kunming, China within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity will among her priorities for 2021.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

PARTHA DASGUPTA

FRANK RAMSEY EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS, LEAD REVIEWER OF DASGUPTA REVIEW ON THE ECONOMICS OF BIODIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Professor Dasgupta has been a Professor of Economics at the University of Cambridge since 1985, serving as Chairman of the Faculty of Economics from 1997 to 2001. He has won numerous awards and in 2002, he was named Knight Bachelor by the Queen for services to economics. His research interests have covered welfare and development economics, the economics of technological change, population, environmental and resource economics, the theory of games, the economics of undernutrition, and the economics of social capital. In 2019, Professor Dasgupta was commissioned by HM Treasury to lead an independent, global Review on the Economics of Biodiversity. The Review's final report will be published in the autumn.



SPEAKER

JOSÉ ANTONIO QUESADA

VICE PRESIDENT, REGULATORY POLICY, NATIONAL BANKING AND SECURITIES COMMISSION OF MEXICO (CNBV)

Mr. Antonio Quesada serves, since 2019, at the CNBV. At international and national arenas, he represents the Commission in several bodies. Antonio's Division holds the Accounting expertise at the CNBV. Before joining the CNBV, Mr. Quesada was the Dean of the EGADE Business School. He served, since 2012, as President of the Mexican Institute of Finance Executives, and he was a member of the Board at PricewaterhouseCoopers and an associate partner. He holds a bachelor's degree in Accounting, an MBA, and a Degree in Accounting from ITAM* and Florida International University. He is a Chartered Public Accountant by the Mexican College of Public Accountants of Mexico.



SPEAKER

SHERRY MADERA

CHIEF INDUSTRY & GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS OFFICER, REFINITIV

Sherry Madera joined Refinitiv as Chief Industry and Government Affairs Officer in March 2019, based in London. Refinitiv is a Global financial data business. Previously, she was Economic Ambassador to Asia and Special Advisor for the City of London Corporation and a UK Diplomat after a career in Investment Banking. Sherry works closely with Industry and government on Financial Services topics including Sustainability/Green Finance, FinTech, Currency internationalization and Regulation. She chairs the Future of Sustainable Data Alliance formed in early 2020.



SPEAKER

SYLVAIN VANSTON

HEAD OF CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY, AXA GROUP

Sylvain Vanston is in charge of integrating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) risk / opportunity factors into the AXA Group's product development, risk management, underwriting and investment processes, as well as generate new policy developments with a specific focus on Climate Change and biodiversity. He also supports relationship with analysts and rating agencies, the AXA Group's ESG reporting strategy as well as its environmental footprint management. Sylvain's academic background is in International Relations (Sciences Po Paris, LSE). He started his career in Public Relations, business finance and SRI rating, prior to joining AXA's Sustainability team.



SPEAKER

ERIC SOUBEIRAN

VICE-PRESIDENT NATURE & WATER CYCLE & CEO DANONE ECOSYSTEM FUND, DANONE

Eric Soubeiran is Danone's One Planet and Water Cycle Vice-President and member of the Cycles & Procurement Board. In this role, he is responsible for the company's sustainability agenda and coordinating on climate change, water resource protection, regenerative agriculture, circular economy and human rights. Eric also serves as the Chief Executive of the Danone Ecosystem Fund. Eric keeps promoting synergies between Danone and Ecosystem to maximize the social and economic impact of the fund and ensuring that innovations and best practices proven in the Ecosystem's projects are scaled inside and outside Danone.



SPEAKER

HANA HEINEKEN

SENIOR CAMPAIGNER, RESPONSIBLE FINANCE, RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK

Hana works to hold banks and investors accountable for their impacts on rainforests, the climate, and human rights. She is a frequent speaker at conferences and advocacy events, and is passionate about saving the rainforests and protecting the rights of communities that live in harmony with nature. Before coming to RAN, Hana worked with Global Witness to address the illegal tropical timber trade as well as the harmful impacts of development finance institutions. Hana is a graduate of Princeton University and Pace Law School, and has a background in environmental and human rights laws. She was born and raised in Japan and is an avid vegetarian cook.



CLOSING REMARKS

ELIZABETH MARUMA MREMA

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema is the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. She has worked with the UN Environment Programme for over two decades and was the Director of the Law Division at UNEP. Prior to joining the Law Division, she was Deputy Director of the Ecosystems Division, in charge of coordination, operations and programme delivery. Prior to these duties, she also served as Executive Secretary of the UNEP/Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. Her work at UNEP has focused on development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, including multilateral environmental agreements at national, regional and international levels.



CLOSING REMARKS

JESSICA SMITH

ECOSYSTEMS LEAD, UNEP FINANCE INITIATIVE

Jessica Smith (BES, MA, MCom finance in progress) joined UNEP FI in August to lead the ecosystems workstream. For the past 7 years she has directed a consultancy firm undertaking environmental finance project development and evaluation, and leading secretariats for the Equator Principles Association (environmental and social risk in Project Finance for 100+ financial institutions) and the Cross-Sector Biodiversity Initiative (applying IFC performance standard 6 on biodiversity in oil & gas, mining, and finance). Her key areas of interest are mobilising private and blended finance for ecosystems (SDGs 14 and 15) and managing biodiversity-related risks in banking and investment.