



Meet the Speakers

Session 1.1 | THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2020, 9 AM - 10:30 AM EDT
NATURE FOR CLIMATE



OPENING REMARKS

RICKY KEJ

GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING MUSICIAN AND ENVIRONMENTALIST

Grammy® Award Winner, US Billboard #1 artist, UNESCO- MGIEP Ambassador & UNICEF 'Celebrity Supporter' Ricky Kej is an internationally renowned Indian Music Composer, Professor, and Environmentalist. Ricky has dedicated his life and music to creating awareness on the Environment, and positive social impact. He has performed at prestigious venues in over 30 countries, including at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and Geneva. Ricky Kej composed and produced his album 'SHANTI SAMSARA', which was launched by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Francois Hollande at the United Nations COP21 Climate Change Conference in Paris. In addition to winning more than a 100 music awards, he has been awarded "United Nations Global Humanitarian Artist" & "Youth Icon of India". He is also a professor at the prestigious National Institute of Advanced Studies.



OPENING REMARKS

ACHIM STEINER

ADMINISTRATOR, UNDP

Achim Steiner is the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme. Before joining UNDP, he was Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, director of the Oxford Martin School, Director General of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and Secretary General of the World Commission on Dams.



OPENING REMARKS

INGER ANDERSEN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNEP

Inger Andersen was appointed Executive Director of the UNEP. 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. Prior to joining IUCN, Ms Andersen held various leadership roles at the World Bank and United Nations. 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 specialisation in development economics.



OPENING 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.



MODERATOR

LUCY ALMOND

CHAIR AND DIRECTOR, NATURE4CLIMATE

Lucy is one of the driving forces behind the dynamic coalition, [Nature4Climate](#), a strategic mobilisation response to climate change. Through Nature4Climate, she has helped to catalyse action and investment in nature-based solutions to climate change. Governments, companies and civil society organisations around the world are now recognising the urgent need for natural climate solutions, alongside decarbonisation strategies.

She has played a central role in bringing together many different sectors of civil society to create an alliance of resolute partners committed to addressing the climate crisis and protecting and restoring our natural ecosystems. Lucy has guided Nature4Climate's influencing strategy, building awareness of nature-based solutions, and engaging with governments, the private sector and more recently with youth mobilisation groups. In achieving this, Lucy's past experience has been invaluable: drawing on her background as an international strategic communications specialist in the energy and natural resources sector, with experience at The Nature Conservancy, BP and at her own consultancy.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

JENNIFER MORRIS

CEO, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Jennifer Morris is a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at TNC. For the past 25 years, Morris has been dedicated to protecting the environment for people and nature. Morris joined Conservation International in 1998, serving in a number of leadership roles, including Chief Operating Officer, before being named president of the organization in 2017. Prior to joining Conservation International, Morris was a business development consultant with Women's World Banking. Morris has a bachelor's degree in political science from Emory University in Atlanta, GA and a master's degree in international affairs with a focus on business development and microfinance from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs in New York, NY.

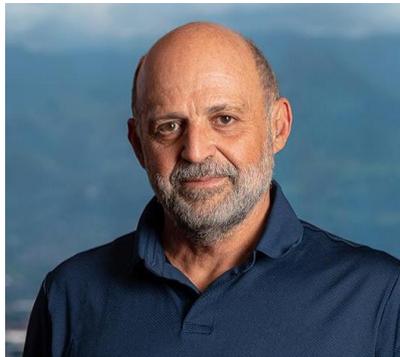


KEYNOTE SPEAKER

RT HON LORD ZAC GOLDSMITH

MINISTER FOR PACIFIC AND THE ENVIRONMENT AT THE FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH & DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (FCDO) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS (DEFRA), UK GOVERNMENT

The Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park is the Minister for Pacific and the Environment at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). He was first appointed as a Minister of State in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development and Defra on 13 February 2020. He was previously Minister of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and at the Department for International Development from 10 September 2019 to 13 February 2020 and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and at the Department for International Development on 27 July 2019 and 10 September 2019.



SPEAKER

CARLOS MANUEL RODRIGUEZ

CEO, THE GEF

Lawyer by profession, politician by choice, and conservationist at heart, Carlos Manuel Rodriguez was elected as CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility by its governing body, the GEF Council, in June 2020. The Costa Rican Environment and Energy Minister was a pioneer in the development of Payment for Ecosystem Services initiatives and strategies for forest restoration, ocean conservation, de-carbonization, and is an expert on environmental policy, multilateral environmental negotiations, and financing for nature conservation. His positions over the past 30 years include: Director of Costa Rica's National Parks Service, founder of many environmental NGOs, expert negotiator in UNFCCC, CBD, and UNCCD, and participant in negotiations for the creation and implementation of the GEF and Green Climate Fund.



SPEAKER

KALUKI PAUL MUTUKU

REGIONAL DIRECTOR, YOUTH4NATURE

Mr. Kaluki Paul Mutuku is a Kenya-based young climate advocate and an environmental defender, working to champion meaningful youth engagement for Climate action. His background is in Environmental Conservation and Natural Resource Management from the University of Nairobi, Kenya. He has experience in community organizing, climate communication, campaign coordination, environmental education among many other areas. His key focus for Africa is on land restoration, reforestation, ecological farming and youth leadership across the spaces. He dedicates part of his time to Green Treasures Farms, where he seeks to Intensify Environmental Sustainability by engaging rural communities in Kenya to protect their biodiversity, grow organic food, grow trees and build sustainable communities.



SPEAKER

IRENE OJOUK

NATIONAL TECHNICAL SPECIALIST, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE, WORLD VISION, KENYA

Irene Ojok joined World Vision as a National Technical Specialist, Environment and Climate Change. Before joining the World Vision, she served as a Project Coordinator, where she provided technical input in the implementation of environment and climate change interventions. She has a Masters Degree from Nairobi University in Project Planning and Management.



SPEAKER

JAD DALEY

PRESIDENT AND CEO, AMERICAN FORESTS

Jad Daley is President and CEO of American Forests, prior this position, he worked as a Vice President for Conservation Programs. He worked as a Climate Program Director at The Trust for Public Land. He has an extensive experience in leading a coalition of conservation non-profits covering 22 states, focused on policy emphasis on federal funding for forest conservation. He holds a Masters Degree from Vermont Law School in Environmental Law and Policy.



SPEAKER

ERIN FITZGERALD

CEO, U.S. FARMERS & RANCHERS IN ACTION

Erin Fitzgerald serves as CEO of the U.S. Farmers & Ranchers in Action (USFRA), a farmer and rancher led organization committed to encouraging stakeholder and consumer dialogue about how food is grown and raised. She leads the organization's strategic direction of the organization. Fitzgerald's thought leadership in the sustainability space convenes food and agriculture stakeholders in an inclusive dialogue on the sustainable food systems of the 21st century.



SPEAKER

CHRISTY PLUMER

**CHIEF CONSERVATION OFFICER, THEODORE ROOSEVELT
CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP**

Previously, she spent a year working to advance solar and renewable energy policy with SolarCity as their northeast campaign director. As director of federal land programs at The Nature Conservancy, Plumer lobbied for improving conservation funding levels through the federal appropriations process, enhancing natural resources policy, and creating proactive solutions for fish and wildlife habitat conservation. She also spent two years as director of government relations for The Conservation Fund and seven years on Capitol Hill working for moderate Republicans, including Sen. John Chafee and Sen. Bob Smith. Plumer also served as staff director for the Senate Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Water under then-chairman Sen. Lincoln Chafee. She holds a B.A. in Biology and Environmental Studies from the University of Pennsylvania and an M.A. in Environmental Studies from Brown University. She loves to flyfish, kayak, hike, and photograph beautiful spots in the great American outdoors.



SPEAKER

BINBIN WANG

INSTITUTE OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY

Binbin brings decade of expertise and experience in climate change and sustainable development, working across media, NGOs, academia, and think tanks. She started her career as a reporter for China Central Television. In 2008, she joined Oxfam and tracked the UNFCCC process since 2009 as the China Climate Lead. As the first PhD in climate communication in China, Binbin co-founded the China Center for Climate Change Communication in 2010; the group conducted two national surveys on Chinese public perception of climate, partnering with YPCCC. In 2016, Binbin moved to School of International Studies, Peking University as the Post-Doctoral Research Fellow on global climate governance and China's role based on her 8-year practice. Most recently, Binbin joined the new think tank, Institute of Climate Change and Sustainable Development, at Tsinghua University.



SPEAKER

SVEINUNG ROTEVATN

MINISTER OF CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT, NORWAY

Mr. Sveinung Rotevatn is the Minister of Climate and Environment of Norway. Rotevatn comes from Nordfjordeid, Sogn og Fjordane, and has a master's degree in law from the University of Bergen. He has served as Minister of Climate and the Environment since 2020. Prior to that, he served as a state secretary at the same department from 2018 to 2020 under then minister Ola Elvestuen.



SPEAKER

ERON BLOOMGARDEN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EMERGENT

International expert in environmental markets, climate finance, and impact investing. Inaugural faculty of the MSc in Sustainability Management, now adjunct professor at the Earth Institute at Columbia University. Founder of Climate and Forest Capital LLC, Former Partner at Encourage Capital and Portfolio Manager of the EKO Green Carbon Fund, President of Environmental Markets at Equator LLC, and U.S. Country Director at EcoSecurities.



SPEAKER

MANUEL PULGAR-VIDAL

GLOBAL LEADER OF CLIMATE & ENERGY, WWF

Manuel Pulgar-Vidal is the Global Leader of Climate & Energy at WWF. He has 35 years of experience in environmental law and policy and served as Minister of the Environment of Peru (2011 to 2016) and President of the Twentieth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - COP20 in 2014. Pulgar-Vidal was the Executive Director of the Peruvian Society for Environmental Law, an influential institution in Latin America. He is a board member of Forest Trends, Amazon Conservation Association and Peruvian Society of Environmental Law and a member of the Assembly of the World Wide Fund for Nature - Colombia. He has recently been added to the Aspen Institute Management and Leadership Advisory Group and is the chairman of the evaluation council of the French sovereign Green Bonds. He is an active member of different groups aiming to get strong outcomes as a part of the formal climate talks and the non-party stakeholders' agenda. He has been recognized by the governments of France, Germany and Spain and by the Royal Scottish Geographical Society for his contribution to the Paris Agreement.



SPEAKER

H.E. MINISTER MR. PAULO PROAÑO

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

From Montevideo, Ecuador, Paulo Proaño Andrade has a Master's Degree in Environmental Law and a Bachelor's Degree in Agribusiness Engineering from the Universidad San Francisco de Quito. He was general manager of the Public Company Unidad Nacional de Almacenamiento, and served as undersecretary of Environmental Quality in the Ministry of the Environment, a position in which he executed the strategic direction in prevention and control. He also has experience in the control and monitoring of compliance with national environmental regulations, in plans and projects related to information on the drinking water sector and in the implementation of organic farming systems. It has also contributed to forestation and reforestation programs, and to the promotion of sustainable productive economic development in the country's Amazon region.

SPEAKER

H.E. MINISTER HUANG RUNQIU

MINISTER ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

He started his career in September 1988. He graduated from the Hydrology Department of the Chengdu College of Geology (currently known as the Chengdu University of Technology) with a major in Engineering Geology. He has a postgraduate education, holds a PhD degree in engineering and the professional title of professor.



Member of the 9th, 10th and 11th CPPCC National Committee; deputy to the 12th National People's Congress; standing committee member of the 12th National People's Congress (resigned in March 2016); member and standing committee member of the 13th CPPCC National Committee.



SPEAKER

SHAUNNA MORGAN SIEGERS

OPERATIONS MANAGER, INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

Shaunna Morgan Siegers was born and raised in Manitoba. She is a member of the Crees of Waskaganish First Nation situated on the southern shores of James Bay in Eeyou Istchee. A scientist with bachelors and master degrees in botany, Shaunna possesses more than 20 years of research, Indigenous Knowledge, environmental science and ethnobiological experience. She has a long history of living and working in remote First Nations. Shaunna has a deeply held sense of responsibility to protect the environment and keep it healthy for future generations. She is especially motivated to eliminate the social inequity often related to environmental damage. In her work and life, Shaunna is seeking well-balanced solutions to address the complex environmental, social, cultural and economic challenges we all face.



SPEAKER

SUSAN COOK-PATTON

FOREST RESTORATION SCIENTIST, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Dr. Susan Cook-Patton has a PhD in Ecology from Cornell University, with expertise in how changes in climate and biodiversity and impact the health of natural and urban ecosystems. She has a decade of experience planning, implementing, and publishing scientific research, and over twelve years of experience making science comprehensible and useful.



SPEAKER

MAURICIO BIANCO

VICE PRESIDENT OF CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL, BRAZIL

In this role, Mauricio identifies opportunities and trends to achieve positive impacts for the people and environment of Brazil, with an emphasis on nature-based solutions to climate change, sustainable development and building partnerships. Prior to joining CI-Brazil, Mauricio worked for more than two years at ChildFund in the Brazilian national office, where he was responsible for communications and fundraising. Prior to that, he worked for more than 12 years at TIM (telecom operator in Brazil) as the corporate affairs manager. Mauricio holds a degree in Hotel Management and Tourism from the University of Caxias do Sul (UCS). He earned a specialization in Strategic Management/Marketing from the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) and completed the Executives Development Program at Fundação Dom Cabral (FDC).



SPEAKER

THEO DE JAGER

WORLD FARMER'S ORGANIZATION

Theo de Jager was elected as president of the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) on 14 June 2017. Dr de Jager is the first South African to head the organisation and the second African after Dr Evelyn Nguleka from Zambia. He represented AgriSA at the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) for the past eight years and has been president since 2013. He was also President of the Pan-African Farmers' Organisation (PAFO) until recently. De Jager is a co-founder of Agri All Africa, a company which assists small farmers in Africa to transition to commercial farming. He was also voted South African Agriculturalist of the Year in 2016 by the Agricultural Writers SA.



SPEAKER

MARK WISHNIE

CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER AND HEAD OF LANDSCAPE CAPITAL AT THE TIMBERLAND INVESTMENT GROUP

Mark Wishnie directs TNC's Global Forestry & Wood Products team, where he manages a portfolio of initiatives aimed at delivering on the climate mitigation potential of forests and the forest economy. Mark joined TNC from the BTG Pactual Timberland Investment Group, where he led portfolio management, research and analytics for the firm's c. \$3 billion global timberland portfolio. Prior to his work with BTGP, Mark co-founded and directed the Native Species Reforestation Project (PRORENA), a joint research program of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and Yale University, and served as Program Director of the Yale Tropical Resources Institute.

Mark has also consulted to governments, universities, and Fortune 500 companies on forest finance, management and restoration. Mark holds a BS in Forest Management from the University of Washington and a Master of Forest Science from Yale University.



SPEAKER

MARTIN BERG
POLLINATION GROUP

Martin is a globally renowned leader in climate and environmental finance, having conceptualized and led low carbon investments in the public and private sector for more than 20 years. Martin joined Pollination from the European Investment Bank (EIB) based in Luxembourg where he was the Head of the Environmental Funds and Climate Finance Policy Unit. At the EIB, Martin has led investments into new climate and environmental sectors, such as natural capital and the blue economy and helped to develop new business models, solutions for blended finance and other innovative financing mechanisms for more developed low carbon sectors, such as energy efficiency and renewable energy. At the EIB, he also supervised the Natural Capital Financing Facility, a pioneering joint EIB and European Commission initiative, and raised EUR 2.1bn for carbon, capture and storage and innovative renewable energy demonstration projects as part of the so-called NER300 initiative. He served on the Board of Directors for the Green for Growth Fund in Luxembourg and was a Vice President at Bank of America Merrill Lynch in London responsible for the carbon finance activities of Merrill Lynch. Martin was also a Carbon Finance Specialist at the New York based environmental investment firm RNK Capital LLC and started his career at the OECD Climate Change Unit in Paris as well as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bonn.

SPEAKER

KRISTINA KLOBERDANZ
SVP, CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER FOR MASTERCARD



Kloberdanz joined Mastercard in May 2017 as Vice President of Corporate Sustainability, leading the development of the company's sustainability report. Prior to that, she worked for IBM leading their global corporate responsibility/sustainability strategy, integration and brand reputation. Kloberdanz holds a B.A. in Business Administration from Southern Methodist University.



CLOSING REMARKS

M. SANJAYAN

CEO, CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

Dr. M. Sanjayan has served as Conservation International's chief executive officer since 2016. He is a global conservation scientist whose work spans from genetics to wildlife migration to nature's impacts on human well-being.

Raised in Southeast Asia and West Africa, Sanjayan's unique background has informed his work and he has attracted widespread media coverage, from The New York Times, Outside Magazine and CNN International. His media appearances include NBC's "Today Show," "The Late Show with David Letterman," "CBS This Morning," and "CBS Evening News," and he has hosted more than a dozen documentaries from PBS, BBC, National Geographic, Discovery and Showtime. Most recently, he hosted the University of California and Vox Media's Climate Lab series, which has garnered over 20 million views.