

WEBINAR ON RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR BIODIVERSITY
31 March 2021

Short biographies

Part 1: The economic case for financing biodiversity - State-of-the-art on resource mobilization

Rose Niu



Rose has been the Chief conservation officer for Paulson Institute since 2013. She leads the strategies and projects of its Conservation Program. Before joining the institute, Rose worked as China Director for WWF-US for two years. Prior to that, she had worked for TNC as its first China Program Director and Deputy Managing Director for North Asia Region for thirteen years. Rose also worked for Chinese government for eight years. She got bachelor's degree on veterinary science and master's degree on natural resources management.

Giovanni Ruta



Giovanni (Gianni) Ruta is Senior Environmental Economist in the Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy Global Practice at the World Bank. He is coordinating the World Bank's "Road to Kunming" Knowledge Product, providing analytic and strategic support to the process leading up to the "post-2020 global biodiversity framework" of the Convention on Biological Diversity. He has worked on the economics of sustainability, green growth, natural capital accounting and has led investment project financing, development policy operations and analytic. He has extensive experience in Latin America and in Africa. Gianni has a doctorate in environmental economics from the London School of Economics & Political Science.

Gilles Kleitz



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.

Part 2: Practical insight from key initiatives - Aligning budget and finance with biodiversity objectives

Gareth Phillips



Gareth is Manager of the Climate and Environment Finance Division in the African Development Bank, based in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Gareth has over 25 years' experience in climate change and sustainability. Trained as a Forester, Gareth has worked in a wide variety of sectors on GHG accounting, inventory verification, the Clean Development Mechanism and Emission Trading Systems. Gareth's work currently includes Paris Alignment within the MDBs, the development of the Adaptation Benefits Mechanism, Green Banks in Africa; plastic recycling; and fund raising for investments into sustainably-managed commercial forestry plantations.

Arnesh Sharma



Arnesh is a sustainability professional with expertise in the areas of Corporate Sustainability & ESG Strategy, Sustainable Finance and Corporate Social Responsibility. At YES Bank, he is involved in mainstreaming sustainable development into core operations of the Bank including investments, reducing operational footprint and creating impact for the communities. Under the leadership of the Chief Financial Officer, he has driven thought leadership, ESG Strategy, Triple Bottom-line Accounting and sustainable finance products. Prior to YES BANK, Arnesh has been associated with leading manufacturing and service sector organizations in India, working across climate change, sustainability and EHS domains.

Sandra Valenzuela de Narvaez



Sandra is a lawyer, with a double Master's degree in International Affairs/Development Studies and Environmental Studies. She has been working in the environmental field since 1996 and is passionately dedicated to biodiversity conservation, land tenure rights, peace, and sustainable development. She is the co-chair of IUCN/WCPA specialist group on green list and protected areas management effectiveness. She has strong experience on effective resource mobilization integrating substantial amounts of funding for nature from public and government sources, engaging private sector, companies, philanthropists, promoting public and private partnerships. She has experience on financial flows analysis for budget alignment, designing legal and platforms to mobilize and match funding needs, and implementing innovative and impact financing mechanisms.