

2020 GLOBAL PHILANTHROPY FORUM

# FACING THE FUTURE



A Changing Climate in a Changing World

SEPTEMBER 14-16

# FACING THE FUTURE

**GLOBAL PHILANTHROPY  
FORUM CONFERENCE**

SEPTEMBER 14-16, 2020

This book includes transcripts from the plenary sessions and keynote conversations of the 2020 Global Philanthropy Forum Conference. The statements made and views expressed are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of GPF, its participants, World Affairs or any of its funders. Minor adjustments have been to remarks for clarity. In general, we have sought to preserve the tone of these panels to give the reader a sense of the Conference.

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## FOREWORD

Since we all last met at the 2020 Global Philanthropy Forum, unrelenting heat waves continue to scorch the U.S. West Coast and Asia while record floods and rain racked parts of Europe and elsewhere. The recent U.N. Report on Climate Change again sounded the alarm—at a higher and louder pitch—that climate change is the result of human activity and is going to get worse very quickly if we don't act now.

There is no doubt that climate change is the major global challenge of our time, that it affects all aspects of human existence and that it will require everyone to do their part if we are to leave our children and their children a planet on which they can be secure, thrive and prosper.

In 2020 the Global Philanthropy Forum took on the huge topic of climate change and we sought to shape the gathering as an action-oriented learning community—a network that prioritizes the task of translating global ideas into local “doing”.

We took this intentional approach because our world and the regular rhythms of our pre-COVID lives have been turned upside down. Yet, if we take the time to think about it more, we realize that pandemic, an uncertain world economy, mass protests have only intensified the underlying uncertainties we have long felt from a growing world population, a more volatile climate, massive technology change, and an increasing gap between rich and poor. There is a heightened sense that our institutions are not up to the task of taking action and solving problems. This burdens us with enormous anxiety, which if left unabated, leaves us vulnerable to words and deeds of false prophets, demagogues and fear-mongers.

Unfortunately, the prospect of continuous and unrelenting physical and emotional stress upon us as individuals, communities and societies could become a new normal if we do nothing.

But here is where there is some good news. And it's this—the GPF network that you all are a part of. Why? Because GPF is a deep reserve of commitment, energy, ideas and resources that has the capacity to fill gaps in our societies that others cannot. GPF is a living example of a group of people and organizations in action, one that produces material and meaningful results for others to learn from and hopefully scale.

My hope is that the GPF community takes the lessons of the 2020 conference, rolls up its sleeves again and does what it takes to steward us towards meaningful and impactful progress.

Here's a summary of what transpired those busy three days in 2020—

Day one of the conference highlighted the intersectionality of climate change issues; how global warming impacts and interacts with social and racial inequality, public health, and structural challenges. **Larry Kramer**, president of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, opened the conference with advice on how philanthropy can effectively respond to the climate crisis. Kramer issued a bold call to action, "philanthropy needs to stop fiddling while the world burns." Climate change only exacerbates all of our society's most pressing issues like racial and economic inequality, and our social, political, and economic structures simply can't handle that kind of pressure.

Founder of the Global Philanthropy Forum, **Jane Wales** then engaged with **Paul Hawken** of One Generation to discuss the importance in tackling the crisis. Hope has only gotten us so far in addressing global warming, and Hawken believes that we instead need to be fearless in our efforts.

Connecting climate change to other real world challenges, **Catherine Coleman Flowers**, Director and Founder of the Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice, discussed how addressing poverty alleviation through an environmental justice lens can create lasting benefits to some of our most underserved communities in the US. She asserted that localities need to be more responsive to problems experienced in impoverished areas and allow community leaders who have a vested interest to have a seat at the table.

The year 2020 represented a crucial opportunity. With racial injustice, COVID-19, and the collapsing economy, not to mention the changing climate, there is a "convergence of crises." "We need to get out of the gloom and doom mindset" when it comes to climate change, claimed **Christiana Figueres**, Co-founder of Global Optimism. Despair leads to paralysis, and then nothing gets done. We have the ingenuity and the capacity to avoid the worst and build a much better world. **Aaron Bernstein**, Interim Director at The Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment at Harvard, agreed. The inequalities we've historically allowed to fester can no longer be tolerated. He reminded us that when working on climate solutions we need to talk about the direct, short-term benefits to everyday people.

Colorado's **Governor Jared Polis** joined the Global Philanthropy Forum to offer a perspective from one state in the Western US. With record high temperatures and wildfires ravaging our country, our leaders and philanthropists need to take action now or we'll see increasingly severe climate-related catastrophes. The solution to our climate change problems lies in collaboration between business, government, and all sectors of society.

Closing out the day, Former UN Secretary General **Ban Ki-moon** offered his take on the challenge raised by Hewlett Foundation president Larry Kramer first thing in the morning—how can philanthropy affect change in this climate crisis? "Philanthropy plays a critical role as a bridge between worlds and channeling innovation and entrepreneurship," he said. We have an obligation to our planet to make it more sustainable, and real progress on reversing global warming can only exist when all members of society work together.

Day two of the conference featured leaders, change-makers, and experts from across the globe who discussed how we can build resilience by promoting and empowering those who have been disproportionately impacted by climate change.

Former President of Ireland and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, **Mary Robinson** opened the first session of the day with **Wanjira Mathai**, vice president and regional director for Africa at the World Resources Institute. They discussed the importance of working with and supporting urbanizing regions to build a more resilient and environmentally just future.

Next, **Michelle Nunn**, president and CEO of CARE USA explained how climate disasters have a disproportionate impact on those who already suffer the greatest inequities in society. Every societal issue we experience today, from racial and gender inequality, to climate change, and poverty—only compound one another; and women and girls tend to suffer the most. Philanthropists need to take what they learn from this conference and turn it into meaningful investment and action.

Expanding on the idea that we must work with those most adversely affected by climate change, **Maxine Burkett**, co-founder & senior advisor of The Institute for Climate and Peace and **Amali Tower**, founder & executive director of Climate Refugees discussed how to protect the rights of those displaced by climate crises. These people are falling through the cracks legally and will continue to do so at exponential rates as environmental disasters get worse. They're not classically defined refugees, but they are fleeing the destruction of their homes and ancestral lands. We need political commitment to legally protect those forced from their homes by global warming, and we need to support countries who will likely receive them.

Throughout the day, we heard about the challenge of facing widespread hesitation in our global society when talking about addressing climate change. **Rajiv Shah**, president of the Rockefeller Foundation, echoed this concern. He argued that philanthropy can do more by inspiring partnership and collective action, and of course, by reminding people that we are all in this together.



A refreshing conversation with youth climate activists **Vanessa Nakate** and **Isha Clarke** rounded out day two. They made a strong case for empowering youth activism by giving young people space to be heard. The best chance we have at combating climate change is to help build resilience in our communities, and we can best do that by fostering authentic partnerships and investing in people who are disproportionately impacted by climate injustice; most notably, women and girls.

As philanthropists learn the importance and complexity of climate change, the question of how to best tackle the many challenges without becoming overwhelmed or fatigued came into focus on the final day of the 2020 Global Philanthropy Forum. We dove right into the concrete actions we can take to make sustainable change, and experts shared what they have learned in the climate change space so we can move forward swiftly and effectively.

**Bill McKibben**, founder of 350.org, stressed the importance of grassroots power in environmental justice. “When people are engaged,” he said, “that’s when things really coalesce.” He is hopeful about youth activists who have galvanized a new generation of climate advocates, but he cautioned us not to underestimate the value of older people in this movement.

The following plenary session grappled with governmental accountability. Many governments have signed environmental treaties, like the Paris Climate Agreement, but few have followed through on fulfilling those promises.

**Tessa Khan**, co-director of the Climate Litigation Network argued that governments have known for decades what to do to lower their emissions, and have had the resources to do it. The problem is they haven’t prioritized it; nor have they been held accountable.

The conference closed with guidance from Nobel Peace Prize Winner and **Former President of Colombia Juan Manuel Santos** on how to better connect with the environment we live in and are working hard to save. He stressed the importance of working with indigenous communities around the world as a key to solving our climate crisis. Indigenous communities have a deep relationship with the Earth, knowledge that is essential to discovering effective climate solutions.

From harnessing grassroots power and effective collaboration, to the importance of respecting and engaging with our indigenous communities and the Earth itself, the final day of the Global Philanthropy Forum’s 2020 conference offered invaluable tools and insights for philanthropists, change-makers, social investors and innovators around the world to move forward and take action to combat climate change.

My first year leading GPF happened to be the first year GPF moved to an all virtual platform—our concession to the new realities brought on by COVID-19.

The new format wasn’t the only change either. 2020 was the first year GPF went from an invitation only event to one that was completely open to all philanthropists, social investors, and changemakers—and to our delight, we saw very high levels of engagement and were particularly pleased to reach speakers and participants around the world, with over 30 countries represented. The GPF team took great pleasure and pride in mapping out the content of this year’s conference and hosting extraordinary climate leaders and activists.

Building on the incredible legacy of my predecessor Jane Wales, my goal is to refashion GPF and World Affairs for the new world that is about to come. We strive to become a venue once known for “convening and connecting” into a robust gathering place that embodies “insight, action and purpose.”

This will not be an easy task because there are immense challenges we all face in the post-COVID world. Yet I find comfort in a core belief that binds those of us who were a part of GPF 2020 and those prior. And it is one that keeps us going here at World Affairs; one person can make a difference in this harrowing, complex and messy world and we can make it better.

GPF is the embodiment of this fundamental value and a living example of impact in action. Thank you for being with us and sticking with us during these particularly trying times.

I look forward to what we all can accomplish together.

Warmly,

**PHILIP W. YUN**



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## 2020 CONFERENCE AGENDA

### MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14

8:00 AM

#### PHILANTHROPY'S RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS: A CALL TO ACTION

With less than 2% of philanthropic capital being spent on climate change, it is time for the philanthropic community to step up and do more. The Hewlett Foundation is a leader in the climate funding space with one third of their grantmaking going to various strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They support work to reduce fossil fuels, bring renewable electricity generation to market and store carbon in the land. Exemplifying their commitment to integrating across sectors and promoting innovation, earlier this year Hewlett joined the Climate Finance Partnership, which uses a unique blend of philanthropic, government, and private sector capital to help attract, mobilize, and amplify that of private capital invested in climate change-mitigating solutions in emerging economies.

In this conversation, Larry Kramer, President of the Hewlett Foundation will share their climate funding strategy and why other foundations should join the effort. With climate change affecting every problem philanthropy seeks to solve, grant makers can dedicate a significant portion of their efforts and resources to mitigating climate change while not sacrificing their other work. Because as Kramer has said himself, "Simply put, if we fail on climate, we fail on everything."

**LARRY KRAMER** President and CEO, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation @Hewlett\_Found

**MODERATOR PHILIP YUN** CEO, World Affairs @philipwyun

8:30 AM

#### THE COMPLEX CHALLENGE AND WHY IT MATTERS

Climate change presents such an enormous and complex challenge that it's not uncommon for defeatist attitudes to take over—enter Paul Hawken. Hawken is one of the environmental movement's leading voices, and a pioneering architect of corporate reform with respect to ecological practices. His book Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever to Reverse Global Warming, is just that, a blueprint of cross-sector climate solutions at every scale. The target is a future point in time in which the levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere stop climbing and begin to decrease, and Hawken founded Project Drawdown to research when and how this can be achieved.

Join Paul Hawken, in conversation with Jane Wales, founder of the Global Philanthropy Forum and Vice President at the Aspen Institute, for a discussion on the climate solutions that exist today, what each individual can do and how we can apply them to reduce and sequest carbon emissions.

**PAUL HAWKEN** Founder and Author, Project Drawdown @PaulHawken

**MODERATOR JANE WALES** Vice President, Aspen Institute and Founder, Global Philanthropy Forum @janewales

**9:10 AM BUILDING INCLUSIVE GREEN ECONOMIES**

Creating economic growth coupled with environmental protection and social inclusion is the basis of inclusive green economies. However, building green economies that are equitable and sustainable requires carefully designed policies and targeted investments that enable low-income people to both contribute to and benefit from the transition. There must also be concentrated efforts to inspire innovation, catalyze relevant research, and amplify the voices of community leaders.

As the founder of the Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice (CREEJ), Catherine Coleman Flowers has worked for years to address the inequities of infrastructure availability in rural areas that are necessary for sustainable economic development. Her efforts reveal a complex set of issues that need multidisciplinary, grassroots-led solutions. Using environmental justice frameworks and sustainable innovations, CREEJ continues to work on ways to prevent air, water, and soil contamination in marginalized rural communities, creating a model that can be replicated across the country. For Coleman Flowers, addressing issues of poverty alleviation through an environmental justice lens and implementing effective strategies driven by the very communities they aim to benefit are critical.

**CATHERINE COLEMAN FLOWERS** Director and Founder, Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice

**MODERATOR TERRY VOGT** Managing Director, Terra Global @terry\_vogt

**9:30 AM SPEED NETWORKING****9:50 AM BREAK****10:00 AM WORKING GROUPS****TRACK 1: INNOVATION  
COMMUNITY-DRIVEN ACCOUNTABILITY: A TOOL FOR  
CLIMATE FINANCE**

Climate financing is urgently needed to address the climate crisis. But as these financial flows reach local communities, some of it is missing its mark, either because of a lack of due diligence and planning, project design problems including failure to incorporate local people or corruption that siphons off funding. Accountability should start with the communities around the world where these projects are based. This working group will talk about how communities are already doing this through mechanisms tied to international finance. It will draw on perspectives of community members, advocates and those funding climate projects.

**CHRISTY CHIN** Venture Partner, DRK Foundation @ChristyChin

**LALANATH DE SILVA** Head, Green Climate Fund (GCF) Independent Redress Mechanism @lalanathds

**NAW EH HTEE WAH** Coordinator of Conservation Alliance Tanawthari (CAT) in Myanmar

**MODERATOR NATALIE BRIDGEMAN FIELDS** Founder and Executive Director, Accountability Counsel @nataliebfields

**TRACK 2: INCLUSIVE GREEN ECONOMIES  
PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY IN WASTE MANAGEMENT**

On an individual level, one of our greatest negative contributions to the environment is the amount of waste we generate. Over 40% of all food in the United States ends up in landfills where it emits greenhouse gases that accelerate climate change. In many urban areas, there are also significant amounts of waste left uncollected and only minimal recycling. The goal of sustainable waste management is to reduce the amount of natural resources consumed, reuse materials whenever possible and create the least amount of waste. The challenge is providing people with a way to incorporate these practices into their daily lives, particularly for those in low-income communities.

Hear from social entrepreneurs who have not only made waste management sustainable and accessible, but also have created jobs in their communities. From urban composting to making recycling collection into a source of income, these new ways of tackling waste are reducing the harmful effects of both climate change and socioeconomic inequality.

**BILIKISS ADEBIYI-ABIOLA** CEO, WeCyclers @bilikiss

**DANIEL BROWN** Founder, Rust Belt Riders @RustBeltRiders

**JEFFREY NEAL** Founder, Loop Closing

**MODERATOR SUZANNE JONES** Executive Director, Eco-Cycle

**TRACK 3: PHILANTHROPY  
PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST IN CLIMATE JUSTICE FUNDING**

The philanthropic community is facing a power-reckoning as more and more funders come to terms with the imbalances they've inherited and shift toward more bottom-up funding approaches. These practices are especially relevant when it comes to climate change. Those who are on the frontlines of the crisis hold the keys to both the understanding and the solutions. Yet, it is these same frontline communities that often lack access to funding to implement local solutions as many funders, policymakers, and organizations take on climate change at the national and international levels.

Against a backdrop of urgent global challenges—climate change, racial and social injustice—how does locally-driven philanthropy offer solutions that are inclusive and effective? How are traditional top-down funding methods being challenged in recognition of these realities? Based on the belief that it is those closest to the issue who are best equipped to build and implement solutions, join this working group led by funders who are centering their climate funding strategies on local voices.

**LAURA GARCIA** President and CEO, Global GreenGrants Fund

**CRYSTAL HAYLING** Executive Director, The Libra Foundation @CHayling

**HEATHER MCGRAY** Director, Climate Justice Resilience Fund @HMcGray

**MODERATOR LINDA CALHOUN** Founder and Executive Producer, Career Girls @careergirlsorg

**11:15 AM CONNECTIONS BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND COVID-19**

The unprecedented reality we find ourselves in today due to the widespread effects of the coronavirus has reignited the call for action to combat climate change. The parallels between the two are undeniable and this pandemic has shown us the true cost of doing nothing. Much as leading global health experts warned against the threat of a global pandemic, climate scientists continue to sound the alarm about the detrimental effects caused by the earth's rising temperature. The public is paying attention. A recent Ipsos poll across 14 countries reported 71% of people believe climate change is as serious a crisis as COVID-19 in the long term. The world is calling upon its leaders to respond and to do so in ways that are based on science and targeted on systemic change.

This panel will explore how these dual crises highlight our global interdependency and need for international governance in addition to state and local leadership. It will examine the disproportionate effects on vulnerable populations and in developing countries, and what lessons can be learned from the COVID-19 crisis to avoid another global emergency that will be even more catastrophic. It will look toward opportunities to rebuild a healthier economy that is sustainable at its core, prioritizing people and the planet using long-term, resilient strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**AARON BERNSTEIN** Interim Director, The Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment, Harvard @DrAriBernstein

**CHRISTIANA FIGUERES** Author and Former Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change @CFigueres

**MODERATOR BARBARA BUCHNER** Executive Director, Climate Policy Initiative @bbuchner13

**12:05 PM SPECIAL REMARKS**

**JARED POLIS** Governor of Colorado

**12:10 PM PRIORITIZING CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE WORLD STAGE  
A CONVERSATION WITH FORMER UN SECRETARY  
GENERAL BAN KI-MOON**

When he assumed the role of Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon's top priority was mobilizing world leaders around a set of new global challenges, the first being climate change. At a time when many were unaware of the severity and urgency of the problem, he brought together representatives of over 180 countries for the 2007 Climate Change Summit calling for a commitment to long-term cooperative action. He also led the efforts for the Paris Climate Agreement and continued to shine a spotlight on the devastating realities of climate change seen around the world by traveling to see melting ice in Antarctica, rampant deforestation in the Amazon and the disappearing island nation of Kiribati.

Ban Ki-moon continues to be a leading advocate for these issues, emphasizing civil society's important role in raising our collective voices and holding business and government leaders accountable. While there have been many bright spots of human ingenuity for adaptation, he reminds us that there is no time for a failure of the imagination when so much more needs to be done.

**BAN KI-MOON** Former Secretary General of the UN @UN

**MODERATOR PHILIP YUN** CEO, World Affairs @philipwyun

**TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15****8:00 AM THE CASE FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE: A CONVERSATION WITH  
FORMER UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
MARY ROBINSON**

Climate justice is rooted in empathy. Climate change is a manmade problem, yet we know that it disproportionately affects vulnerable populations who are the least responsible for its cause. After seeing the impacts of this firsthand while serving as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson became committed to exposing and addressing the injustice of climate change seen in the poorest countries and communities around the world. She started The Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice to bring together multi-disciplinary stakeholders, linking human rights and development with a human-centered approach, to share the burdens and benefits of climate change and its impacts equitably and fairly. This conversation will highlight her investment in the climate movement and the reality of our global interdependence. That this global grassroots movement is being led by women like Mary Robinson is significant, and she believes it is crucial that we make this fight personal to ensure a healthy world for future generations.

She will be joined by another strong advocate for environmental justice, Wanjira Mathai, the Vice President and Regional Director for Africa at the World Resource Institute. Over the years, she has raised the prominence and visibility of global issues such as climate change, youth leadership, and sustainable energy. Mathai has played an active role in the Green Belt Movement, an environmental organization founded by her mother Wangari Maathai, that empowers communities, particularly women, to conserve the environment and improve livelihoods. Together they will challenge us to envision the future that we are heading towards, to imagine what it could look like as a healthier and more just world, and then to go out and fight for that future.

**MARY ROBINSON** Former President of Ireland and Founder, Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice @MaryRobinsonCtr

**MODERATOR WANJIRA MATHAI** Vice President and Regional Director for Africa, World Resource Institute @MathaiWanjira

**8:30 AM BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP**

As the main providers of food and fuel in many parts of the world, women are especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The UN estimates that 80% of those displaced by climate change are women. Given their position on the frontlines of the climate crisis, women are uniquely positioned to be agents of change. Across the world, from boardrooms to local communities, women everywhere are taking the lead on climate change and demanding that they be integral players in the decision-making process. For many years, CARE has worked to support women in these leadership positions, helping them get there, advocating for their rights, and ensuring that they are able to dictate the outcomes of their own futures. Knowing that climate-induced displacement is a huge threat to women in the world's most vulnerable populations, CARE has done extensive research on the causes and consequences of climate-induced displacement and the urgent need for a gender-transformative response.

Joining us will be Michelle Nunn, CEO of CARE, who will discuss why it is critical that women be at the forefront of the fight against climate change and the importance of an intersectional and gendered approach.

**MICHELLE NUNN** CEO, CARE USA @MichelleNunn

**MODERATOR TASNEEM ESSOP** Executive Director, Climate Action Network International @TasneemEssop

**9:00 AM**

### **ENSURING HUMAN RIGHTS FOR CLIMATE REFUGEES**

Today, environmental disasters displace more people than political conflict and war and yet those displaced by climate are not considered refugees as defined by UNHCR and thus are not protected by international law. Of the 30.6 million people displaced across 135 countries in 2017, 60% were as a direct result of natural disasters. With estimates ranging anywhere from 200 million to one billion people being displaced by climate change over the next 30 years and as extreme weather events are on the rise, it is crucial that we establish the resources and put systems in place to protect climate migrants. Due to the efforts of human rights groups like those on this panel, the plight of climate refugees has gained international recognition. While nearly unheard of a decade ago, the term climate refugee is now widely used by governments, nonprofits and the media across the world.

To understand the complexity of the problem, we must look at the role of both economics and politics for those dependent on the land and natural resources for their livelihood. How can philanthropy and advocacy groups continue to raise awareness, drive policy change, partner with communities and protect against sudden natural disasters? How has this work become even more complicated amidst the global pandemic that has led to increased protection of national borders and more unstable economies?

**MAXINE BURKETT** Co-Founder & Executive Director, The Institute for Climate and Peace @ClimateAndPeace

**AMALI TOWER** Founder and Executive Director of Climate Refugees @TowerAmali

**MODERATOR STEVE TRENT** Co-founder and Executive Director, Environmental Justice Foundation @steventrent

**9:45 AM**

### **SPEED NETWORKING**

**10:05 AM**

### **BREAK**

**10:15 AM**

### **WORKING GROUPS**

#### **TRACK 1: INNOVATION EXPANDING THE PIPELINE FOR NEXT GENERATION TALENT TO SOLVE CLIMATE CHANGE**

Climate change, a global emergency, will need a cascade of fundamental research breakthroughs that span industries. In our knowledge economy, a core driver to uncovering these transformative climate solutions must be scientific talent across all disciplines and investing in the people who

will fill our labs, startups, and government offices. And yet, today, there is a talent gap. Best known for running world-class science research competitions, the Society for Science & the Public is launching the first Global Climate Change Competition for Research and Enterprise, which will be open to university students from around the world. The goal of the Competition is to increase the number of young people dedicating their careers to tackling the climate crisis. The Competition will encourage both bold new climate research ideas and solution-oriented entrepreneurial ventures. Competitions are a powerful means to engage people and encourage innovative approaches to the major problems facing us today.

**PAIGE BROWN** Co-founder and CEO, WindBorne Systems

**KUMAR GARG** Managing Director and Head of Partnerships at Schmidt Futures @KumarAGarg

**LOUIS J. MUGLIA** President, Burroughs Wellcome Fund @MugliaLouis

**SAHITHI PINGALI** Student, Stanford University and finalist at the Society's International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) @PingaliSahithi

**MODERATOR MAYA AJMERA** President & CEO, Society for Science & the Public @MayaAjmera

#### **TRACK 2: INCLUSIVE GREEN ECONOMIES HARNESSING OPPORTUNITIES AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR INVESTMENTS IN AFRICA**

Climate change poses a serious threat to Africa's development. According to the UN, Africa is the continent most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change; it bears a disproportionate burden, encompassing a range of potential disasters, of which about 90% are climate and weather related. Apart from direct damage to lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure, climate disasters in Africa produce indirect effects such as loss of employment and output, business disruption, impaired institutional capacities, decreased tax revenue, rise in poverty levels and constrained public finances. Projections are that climate change will lead to a two to four percent loss in annual GDP by 2040. To address these challenges, a mixture of policy interventions, capital investments and capacity building is needed. This session led by the African Development Bank (AfDB) will highlight the role and importance of innovative approaches to mobilize finance for climate adaptation in Africa. What kinds of key policy interventions and enabling environments are needed to drive non-public investments into adaptation?

**LESLEY NDLOVU** CEO, AXA Africa Specialty Risks @ndlovu\_lesley

**ANTHONY NYONG** Director, Climate Change and Green Growth Department, African Development Bank

**ARAME TALL** Senior Adaptation and Resilience Specialist, Climate Change Group, World Bank @dr\_arametall

**ATSUKO TODA** Director, Agricultural Finance and Rural Development Department, African Development Bank



### **THRACK 3: PHILANTHROPY: PHILANTHROPIC CAPITAL FOR TECHNOLOGY AND TOOLS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE**

The need for advanced innovations in technology to address climate change is urgent and expensive. These are big ideas that can have substantial impacts and help avoid catastrophic climate change. Big ideas: like a cost-effective, robust membrane used in industrial filtration systems to eliminate 90% of the energy usage; or a system that measures performance and predicts degradation in batteries helping electric-vehicle battery manufacturers significantly reduce production costs. Catalytic capital can play a critical role in the development of commercial products and services that can take us one step closer to regenerating a healthier planet.

Taking a page from the investment world, how can philanthropic capital be used to invest in these big bets and help fund the next breakthrough in sustainable technology? What strategies can be used to accelerate investment in clean energy technologies and projects? Hear more from those who have developed these game-changing technological advancements and those securing the funding required to bring these solutions to scale.

**SHREYA DAVE** CEO, Via Separations @ViaSeparations

**ANDREW HSIEH** Co-founder and CEO, Feasible @AndrewGHsieh

**MODERATOR NICOLE SYSTROM** Founder, Sutro Energy Group

**11:30 AM**

### **A GREEN RECOVERY: BUILDING BACK BETTER**

The COVID-19 pandemic has given rise to what is likely to be the one of the most challenging global and worst economic crises in our history. It has exposed flawed systems that have been failing marginalized communities for years. With almost every country around the world projected to enter into recession this year and over 40 million workers in the United States alone filing for unemployment, already vulnerable populations will be at an even greater risk of facing extreme poverty. However, this pivotal moment also presents an opportunity to address economic growth with a climate and equity lens while making clean energy a central part of our recovery. To address both the climate and economic crises facing us today, it is critical that we develop a global energy system that ensures all will benefit from the transition to a clean energy economy.

The efforts to rebuild a better world will require collective action across all sectors. We will look at how the Rockefeller Foundation is leading the development of such large-scale, innovative partnerships to pilot breakthrough solutions to scale distributed renewable energy solutions to empower communities worldwide. During this time where we have the opportunity to build back better and more sustainably, the World Resource Institute is taking a critical look at strategic ways of advancing clean energy systems. We will explore their disciplined approach to systems change in the decisive decade ahead.

**RAJIV SHAH** President, Rockefeller Foundation

**ANDREW STEER** CEO, World Resource Institute

**MODERATOR HAL HARVEY** CEO, Energy Innovation @hal\_harvey

**12:10 PM**

### **AMPLIFYING DIVERSITY AND YOUTH VOICES IN THE CLIMATE MOVEMENT**

An estimated 7.6 million people took part in climate strikes across the globe last year in the days leading up to the UN Climate Summit. Driven entirely by young people, these events are among the largest and most powerful global demonstrations in history. Knowing that they will likely see the negative effects of climate change in their lifetimes, there is no longer time to wait and young people are joining forces across the world to press policymakers to take more forceful action to limit global warming.

Concerned about the rising temperature of her country of Uganda, Vanessa Nakate recognized the link to climate change and began striking to raise awareness, helping others to make the connection sooner. She launched the Rise Up Movement to amplify voices from Africa and ensure they are not left out of the global climate conversation. Meanwhile, in Oakland, CA, Isha Clarke began her activism by protesting the construction of a coal terminal through a low-income community of color. Today, she is a leader of Youth Vs Apocalypse, fighting for radical climate action, centered around frontline communities. These youth climate activists inspire hope that humanity can change and build a better future.

Leading the conversation will be Jacqueline Patterson, Director of the Environmental and Climate Justice Program at the NAACP. Whether as an organizer, researcher, policy analyst or program director, Patterson has worked at the intersection of climate, racial and gender justice for the entirety of her career.

**VANESSA NAKATE** Climate Activist @vanessa\_vash

**ISHA CLARKE** Youth Environmental Activist @Y\_Vs\_A

**MODERATOR JACQUELINE PATTERSON** Director of the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program

# WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16

## 8:00 AM THE PATH FORWARD: CLEAN ENERGY AND GRASSROOTS POWER

*The End of Nature*, published in 1988, was the first book written for a public audience about the dangers of global warming. In it, Bill McKibben warned that humans had become the “most powerful source for change on the planet”, a potentially dire achievement. Twenty years later, McKibben translated that sentiment into positive action with 350.org, a planet-wide grassroots climate movement operating in 188 countries. A strong proponent of clean energy, 350.org is named for the amount considered by scientists to be a safe concentration of carbon dioxide in the Earth’s atmosphere. According to NASA, that number today has been exceeded and stands at 412 parts per million.

Join us for a conversation with one of the fathers of the environmental movement on what the current moment demands and how we can, and must, propel ourselves forward to a better relationship with the planet. Joining him will be Joanna Messing, Executive Director of the Growald Family Fund, a high-impact venture philanthropy fund investing in a rapid transition to a clean energy future.

**BILL MCKIBBEN** Author and Environmentalist @billmckibben

**MODERATOR JOANNA MESSING** Executive Director, Growald Family Fund @JoMessing

## 8:30 AM COLLECTIVE ACTION: HOLDING GOVERNMENTS ACCOUNTABLE

Climate change is a collective problem that requires collective action. Governments around the world have failed their people time and time again in their latent and often insignificant responses to the climate crisis. In order to hold them accountable, communities have rallied together to protect their land, resources and livelihoods. Using tools and strategies such as increasing voter demand for environmental leadership and locally driven strategic litigation, people are coming together to demand change. They are ensuring healthier, more stable environments by supporting successful guardianship for indigenous territories and preventing resource-based conflicts.

This panel will discuss the ways in which communities can compel governments to protect their citizens from serious structural harm and inequality and take serious steps in slowing global warming. The challenge for the philanthropic community is to think bigger, work across silos, and establish the mechanisms that secure rights for the local people, for those who play a critical role in the care and management of the biodiversity and natural resources on which humanity depends.

**HINDOU OUMAROU IBRAHIM** President, Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad (AFPAT)

**TESSA KHAN** Co-director, Climate Litigation Network, Urgenda Foundation @tessakhan

**NATHANIEL STINNETT** Founder and Executive Director Environmental Voter Project @NCStinn

**MODERATOR PETER SELIGMANN** CEO, Nia Tero and Chairman, Conservation International @peter\_seligmann

## 9:25 AM PEACEFUL DISRUPTION: EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS

The climate movement has accelerated in recent years as the number of supporters has grown exponentially and the urgency of the situation is more widely understood. To build on this momentum and translate marches into mandates, the leaders of this movement need resources. Philanthropic funds and grants have been established to support individual activists and organizations that increase attention on the threat and demand action from our leaders. They rapidly deploy funds to organizations leading these peaceful protests knowing that changing the dialogue and declaring climate change an emergency will lead to policy solutions that can work. The Climate Emergency Fund is one such example, committed to going beyond the status quo in order to get results. They believe in the importance of peaceful planet-wide mobilization, large-scale disruption and supporting the leaders driving these calls to action.

**GERARDO CEBALLOS** Executive Director, Stop Extinction

**AL MACCUISH** Co-founder and Creative Chairman, Sunshine

**MODERATOR TREVOR NEILSON** Co-founder and CEO, i(x) investments and Board Chair, Climate Emergency Fund @trevor\_neilson

## 9:45 AM SPEED NETWORKING

## 10:05 AM BREAK

## 10:15 AM WORKING GROUPS

### TRACK 1: INNOVATION STORYTELLING IN THE AGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE – A WORKSHOP

TV and film can have profound impacts on viewers’ knowledge, attitudes and even behaviors. For instance, shows like *Will & Grace* and *Modern Family* have been linked to the shifts in attitudes about marriage equality. Studies by the USC Norman Lear Center demonstrate how narrative, entertainment storytelling can inform and inspire audiences to make healthier, safer choices in their own lives. This workshop will present how they work to ensure accuracy in TV storytelling around health, science, safety and security, with emphasis on shows that have addressed climate change. Using clips from popular TV shows and movies as examples, you can explore ways to hone your own storytelling skills and create your own climate impact story.

**KATE FOLB** Director, Hollywood, Health & Society Program, USC Norman Lear Center @HollywdHealth



## TRACK 2: INCLUSIVE GREEN ECONOMIES CREATING GREEN JOBS FOR UNEMPLOYED YOUTH

Youth unemployment continues to rise around the world and is only accelerating in the face of COVID-19. At the same time, up to 60 million new jobs in the green economy could be created by 2030. Is this an opportunity to address the youth employment challenge while simultaneously preserving the environment and increasing climate resilience? In order to do so effectively, the sector needs to be attractive to young people and allow them to be productive while adapting to the effects of climate change.

As countries make the shift to green economies, how can we ensure youth are at the center and equip them with the skills necessary to thrive in green jobs? Join this conversation led by actors who are working directly with young people, finding avenues into this new green economy.

**KATHY ABUSOW** President and CEO, Project Learning Tree Canada  
@KathyAbusow

**JOSHUA AMPONSEM** Founder and Executive Director, Green Africa Youth Organization @AmponsemJoshua

**WILLY FOOTE** Founder and CEO, Root Capital @rootcapitalceo

**MODERATOR ANNE MAFTEI** Learning Manager at The Rural and Agricultural Finance Learning Lab, Mastercard Foundation

## TRACK 3: PHILANTHROPY FUNDING CLIMATE POLICY TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS AT SCALE

Given its size and scope, it's easy to become overwhelmed by the climate crisis. With powerful political forces and traditional energy businesses pushing hard to deny the problem, progress often feels unattainable. There are, however, solutions at scale to cut carbon emissions that are proven and reliable. Policy often spurs the development and deployment of these cleaner and more efficient energy technologies, both domestically and internationally. It also ensures the regulation of emissions from some of the world's biggest contributors like the transportation, industrial and energy sectors.

What specific policies would drive down carbon emissions the fastest? Which ones meet the speed and scale required and how do we win them? What is the role for philanthropy in gaining success in these efforts? Join leading experts in the energy and policy space as they discuss the practical, large-scale options needed to reduce carbon emissions and give us reasons to be optimistic about a net zero future.

**KELLY SIMS GALLAGHER** Academic Dean and Professor of Energy and Environmental Policy, The Fletcher School, Tufts University  
@kellysgallagher

**HAL HARVEY** CEO, Energy Innovation @hal\_harvey

**MARGO OGE** Distinguished Fellow, Climate Works and Former Director, US EPA Office of Transportation and Air Quality @margotoge

**MODERATOR AMY LUERS** Director, Sustainability in the Digital Age Initiative, Future Earth @amyluers

11:30 AM

## KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND COLLABORATION IN CLIMATE FUNDING

Collaboration in philanthropy is often key to getting results. When it comes to funding in the climate and environment space, this is especially important given the scale and complexity of the problem. Foundations and nonprofits are already gathering data, sharing knowledge and helping each other create strategies that are ambitious and complementary to the work that is well underway. To end the climate crisis, we have to follow their lead to move faster, think bigger, and work together.

We turn to both new and established leaders to learn more. As a long time climate funder, the Oak Foundation continues to support organizations around the world that guide economic, social and environmental development policies towards clean energy and an equitable future. To further enhance their impact, they also fund collaboratives such as the Global Commons Alliance, a multi-sector collaboration focused on systems change that empowers citizens, companies and countries to become stewards. The ClimateWorks Foundation was created in 2008 to increase philanthropic impact on climate change. Since then, it has helped funders invest in effective climate strategies around the world through collaborative global programs and services that scale solutions and produce results that bend the emissions curve. The Climate Leadership Initiative, a newly developed collaborative, is helping donors learn about the range of possible solutions, engage them with tailored giving opportunities, and connect them to a network of experts and peers. As one of the largest philanthropic efforts in history, strong partnerships will be integral to its success.

**DOUGLAS GRIFFITHS** President, The Oak Foundation @AmbGriffiths

**JENNIFER KITT** CEO, Climate Leadership Initiative

**CHARLOTTE PERA** CEO, ClimateWorks Foundation @PeraCharlotte

**MODERATOR NICHOLAS TEDESCO** President and CEO, National Center for Family Philanthropy @TedescoNicholas

12:25 PM

## WHEN INDIGENOUS WISDOM SHAPES NATIONAL POLICY— A CONVERSATION WITH NOBEL PRIZE WINNER AND FORMER PRESIDENT JUAN MANUEL SANTOS

Upon becoming President of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos met with indigenous leaders who cautioned him to not only seek peace among the people of Colombia, but also with Mother Nature because she was angry for being so badly mistreated. Not only did President Santos facilitate reconciliation by ending Colombia's more than 50-year-long civil war for which he received the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize, he also became a fierce advocate for protecting the country's biodiversity and fighting climate change through ambitious environmental policies. He established large-scale protected areas and Colombia's unique national carbon tax. Partnering with Conservation International, he now continues this work supporting natural solutions to climate change, empowering indigenous peoples and advancing peace building.

We must now listen to the wisdom of indigenous leaders in sustaining healthy ecosystems even as many world leaders retreat from science and global collaboration. It is time to transition to a green economy—a

necessity, not a luxury. The pandemic has proven that global threats have no borders. As we rebuild post COVID-19, it is not a time to build more walls, but rather a time to build international bridges and heal the wounds of humanity along with those of nature.

**JUAN MANUEL SANTOS** Former President of Colombia @JuanManSantos

**MODERATOR PHILIP YUN** CEO, World Affairs @philipwyun

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### KATHY ABUSOW

PRESIDENT AND CEO, SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE @KathyAbusow

Kathy Abusow is President and CEO of Sustainable Forestry Initiative, a sustainability leader that stands for future forests. She has held this role since 2007, when Sustainable Forestry Initiative® became a fully independent, non-profit organization. Since joining SFI, Kathy has greatly expanded SFI's network to include the forest sector, brand owners, conservation groups, resource professionals, landowners, educators, local communities, Indigenous peoples, governments, and universities.

### BILIKISS ADEBIYI-ABIOLA

CEO, WECYCLERS @bilikiss

Bilikiss, founder of WeCyclers, is responsible for raising capital, business development and building partnerships. Bilikiss is a Laureate of the Cartier Women's Initiative Awards, an Echoing Green Fellow, a Legatum Fellow and a Carroll Wilson Fellow. Bilikiss holds an MBA from MIT Sloan, an MSc in Computer Science from Vanderbilt University and a B.Sc. in Computer Science from Fisk University.

### MAYA AJMERA

PRESIDENT & CEO, SOCIETY FOR SCIENCE & THE PUBLIC, PUBLISHER SCIENCE NEWS @MayaAjmera

Maya Ajmera is the President and CEO of Society for Science & the Public and Publisher of its award-winning magazine, *Science News*. Founded in 1921, the Society works to promote the understanding and appreciation of science and the vital role it plays in human advancement. It is best known for its world-class science competitions, including the Regeneron Science Talent Search, Intel International Science and Engineering Fair and Broadcom MASTERS.

As an alumna of the Westinghouse Science Talent Search, now sponsored by Regeneron, Maya has helped to transform the nearly 100-year-old Society into a dynamic, entrepreneurial organization. She has also founded a new series of outreach and equity programs to reach more underserved STEM students in the United States.

In 1993, Maya founded and led for 18 years The Global Fund for Children (GFC), a nonprofit organization that invests in innovative, community-based organizations supporting the world's most vulnerable children and youth. To date, GFC has awarded nearly \$50 million to more than 700 grassroots organizations in 80 countries, touching the lives of nearly 10 million children.

Maya is also an award-winning children's book author of more than 20 titles, including *Every Breath We Take*. She is a 2011 Henry Crown Fellow of the Aspen Institute and an Echoing Green Fellow. Maya is a board member for Echoing Green, Kids in Need of Defense, Sibley Memorial Hospital/Johns Hopkins Medicine and the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics Foundation and holds an A.B. from Bryn Mawr College and a M.P.P. from the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University.

## JOSHUA AMPONSEM

GREEN AFRICA YOUTH ORGANIZATION @AmponsemJoshua

Joshua Amponsem is an environmental and climate activist. He is the founder of Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO) and a Youth Fellow at the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA). Joshua focuses on the role of youth in Climate Change Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Resilience Building. His work aims to enhance the meaningful inclusion of youth and children in local and global development processes. He is the lead author of the first-ever background paper on youth and climate change adaptation, developed for the Global Commission on Adaptation to provide a pathway for youth engagement in global adaptation efforts.

In Ghana, he is leading the Sustainable Communities Project—which provides community based enterprise models, green jobs and applies circular economy principles to agriculture and food systems, as well as waste management. Joshua is currently supporting GCA to establish a global Youth Adaptation Network which aims to provide a platform to provide youth with the knowledge and resources needed to accelerate global adaptation action. He served as an advisor in the planning and delivery of the first UN Youth Climate Summit and supported the design and delivery of the first-ever IRENA Youth Forum.

In the past years, Joshua worked as a Business Development Manager and lead environmental consultant for Challenges Group Ghana, where he supported the delivery of business growth services to an enterprise portfolio of over 100 enterprises within the green and agricultural sector in Ghana. For 2 years, he was a UNEP Tunza Ambassador for Africa and mentored over 50 young people to implement green initiatives globally. In 2016, he was named World Climate Ambassador by Climate Interactive. Joshua supports governments and private-sector entities to better integrate the voices of youth into their climate and sustainability commitments. He is part of diverse local and international networks working toward a just future.

## AARON BERNSTEIN

INTERIM DIRECTOR, THE CENTER FOR CLIMATE, HEALTH, AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT, HARVARD @DrAriBernstein

Aaron Bernstein is the Interim Director of The Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (Harvard Chan C-CHANGE), a pediatrician at Boston Children's Hospital, and an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Bernstein focuses on the health impacts of the climate crisis on children's health and advancing solutions to address its causes to improve the health and wellbeing of children around the world.

In 2019, Dr. Bernstein testified before Congress on the child health impacts of climate change, drawing from his personal experience as a pediatrician having to treat children with breathing difficulties, vector-borne diseases, and trauma from natural disasters.

Dr. Bernstein leads Climate MD, a Harvard Chan C-CHANGE program to encourage physicians to transform climate change from an issue dominated by politics and concerns about the future to one that matters to every person's health now. He is the course director for Human Health and Global Environmental Change and created

the HarvardX course "The Health Effects of Climate Change" which explores how climate change influences health through its effects on air quality, nutrition, infectious diseases, and human migration as well as solutions to the climate crisis.

## DANIEL BROWN

FOUNDER, RUST BELT RIDERS @RustBeltRiders

Daniel Brown is one of the founders of Rust Belt Riders, a Cleveland-based social enterprise that provides Northeast Ohio businesses, organizations, and individuals with an alternative to landfills for their food waste. Their mission is to feed people, not landfills. Prior to starting Rust Belt Riders in 2014, Daniel held roles in community and economic development. Daniel has served on the Cleveland-Cuyahoga Food Policy Coalition, Cuyahoga County's Next Generation Council and is a National Fellow for the Environmental Leadership Program and was recently named a 2019 Echoing Green Climate Fellow.

## PAIGE BROWN

FOUNDER AND CEO OF WINDBORNE SYSTEMS AND ALUMNA, SOCIETY FOR SCIENCE & THE PUBLIC

Paige Brown is the founder and CEO of WindBorne Systems and Alumna, Society for Science & the Public. Her company aims to help humanity adapt to climate change through superior weather forecasts powered by a new kind of weather balloon. Their balloon systems fly dramatically longer than conventional ones, letting them collect the data no one else has access to and better predict the increasingly extreme weather climate change brings. Paige won first place at the Society's Science Talent Search in 2016 for her work developing a low-cost material capable of absorbing phosphate nutrient pollution from stormwater, preventing harmful algal blooms, like those she witnessed in her hometown of Bangor, Maine. Paige also competed at the Society's International Science and Engineering Fair in 2015 and 2016, where in 2016 she won a first place award in the Environmental Engineering category. She studied Materials Science at Stanford before being selected as a 2019 Thiel Fellow. She is currently working full-time on WindBorne to continue her efforts in the fight against climate change.

## BARBARA BUCHNER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CLIMATE POLICY INITIATIVE @bbuchner13

Dr. Barbara Buchner is Global Managing Director of Climate Policy Initiative, and Executive Director of its widely renowned Climate Finance program. Named one of the 20 most influential women in climate change, Barbara advises leaders on climate, energy, and land use investments around the world.

Barbara directs the Global Innovation Lab for Climate Finance, (the Lab) and its sister programs in Brazil and India. The Lab's public-private approach solicits, shapes, and tests cutting edge climate finance instruments that resolve financing barriers hindering alternative energy, adaptation, and land use projects. Instruments from the Lab have mobilized over 2 billion US dollars for sustainable development in

developing countries in just five years. She is also the lead author on CPI's *Global Landscape of Climate Finance*, which has set the benchmark for climate finance tracking.

She is on the Advisory Board of the BCFN Foundation, the Evaluation Board of the World Economic Forum's Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund, and a member of the One Planet Lab.

## MAXINE BURKETT

CO-FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE INSTITUTE FOR CLIMATE AND PEACE  
@ClimateAndPeace

Maxine Burkett is a professor of law at the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai'i. An expert in the law and policy of climate change, she has presented her work on diverse areas of climate law throughout the United States and in West Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Caribbean. Her work has been cited in numerous news and policy outlets, including BBC Radio, the *ABA Journal*, the *New York Times*, and *Nature Climate Change*. From 2009–2012, Maxine also served as the inaugural director of the Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy (ICAP). As the director of ICAP, she led projects to address climate change policy and planning for island communities globally. In 2010, Maxine served as the Wayne Morse Chair of Law and Politics at the Wayne Morse Center, University of Oregon, for the Center's "Climate Ethics and Climate Equity" theme of inquiry. She is the youngest recipient of the Chair. In 2016, she served as a Public Policy Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. She was also a 2016 recipient of the Bicentennial Medal for Distinguished Achievement, awarded to alumni of Williams College.

Maxine attended Williams College and Exeter College, Oxford University, and received her law degree from Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley. Among her many public service responsibilities, Maxine is vice-chair of the board of Global GreenGrants Fund, is a member scholar of the Center for Progressive Reform, and is a member of the Federal Advisory Committee for the Sustained National Climate Assessment.

## LINDA CALHOUN

FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, CAREER GIRLS @careergirlsorg

Linda Calhoun is an entrepreneur, activist, and community leader based in San Francisco, California. A graduate of Boston University with a B.S. in Mass Communication, Linda's career path led her to work in international policy coordination, media, technology, and data management. Her work has met the unique and increasingly important intersections of STEM and Social Justice. Linda is the Founder and Executive Producer of Career Girls, a nonprofit that was created as a response to the inequality of opportunity that Linda encountered in her story. Linda is the President of the Career Girls board and additionally sits on the board for various other organizations such as Alliance for Girls and Friends of the Commission on the Status of Women.

## GERARDO CEBALLOS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STOP EXTINCTION

Dr. Gerardo Ceballos is an award-winning global environmental scientist with a specialty in animal conservation and extinction. A native of Mexico, he was elected as a foreign member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2014, and is one of only a handful of scientists from Latin America to be named members of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. His efforts toward preservation of Mexico's biodiversity have contributed to the creation of protected area equivalent to 2 percent of the country's landmass, as well as the creation of the first Mexican endangered species act. The author of 52 books, Dr. Ceballos works tirelessly through his organization Stop Extinction/People vs Extinction, to increase the ecological literacy of the general public.

## CHRISTY CHIN

VENTURE PARTNER, DRK FOUNDATION @ChristyChin

Christy Remy Chin serves as a Venture Partner representing the Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation as a board member to portfolio organizations: Education Opens Doors, Food Forward, New Story, Transcend, and Vote.org. She previously served as a Managing Partner and was instrumental in growing the Foundation's pipeline, portfolio support, and stewardship of the Foundation's donor partners between 2009 and 2018. Christy previously served on the boards of Accountability Counsel, Adventure Scientists, Blue Engine, CareMessage, Green City Force, Jacaranda Health, Students for Education Reform, Urban Teachers and Watsi.

Christy has devoted her career to advancing social entrepreneurship and championing high-impact philanthropy. At the beginning of her career, as a research associate at the Harvard Business School, she worked with Professor J. Gregory Dees who defined social entrepreneurship. Christy later served for over four years as a Senior Program Officer at the Skoll Foundation, where she was an integral part of the ideation of the Skoll Awards for Social Entrepreneurship, a highly selective grant award that drives large-scale social change. Prior to joining DRK Foundation, Christy was the Deputy Director at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation's Philanthropy Workshop, a donor education program for high net worth individuals.

Christy also has for-profit experience in venture capital with Bedrock Capital Partners and Norwest Venture Capital and at a venture-backed company, The Frontier Group. Earlier in her career, Christy was a research associate at the Harvard Business School writing cases about venture capital, entrepreneurial management and social entrepreneurship with Professors J. Gregory Dees and Jeffrey A. Timmons.

Christy also chairs the board of Benetech, serves on the National Venture Capital Association board and on the advisory board of Ashoka U.

Christy received her MBA from the Harvard Business School and holds a BA in History from Colgate University.

## ISHA CLARKE

YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST @Y\_Vs\_A

Isha Clarke, a co-founder and activist with Youth Vs Apocalypse, is a recent high school graduate born, raised, and educated in Oakland, CA. Isha recognizes that climate change is the consequence of fundamental systems of oppression like white supremacy, racism, and colonialism. Because of this, people of color, indigenous communities, and working-class people are disproportionately burdened by impacts of climate catastrophe. Knowing this, Isha's work is focused on building a movement that follows the leadership of frontline communities, creates solidarity between other fights for justice, and works to dismantle the systems of oppression that fuel climate change. As a result of this work, Isha was awarded the 2019 Brower Youth Award, 2020 Diller Tikkun Olam Award, and has become a nationally recognized speaker, presenter, and writer.

## SHREYA DAVE

CEO, VIA SEPARATIONS @ViaSeparations

Dr. Shreya Dave is the Co-Founder & CEO of Via Separations, working to intensify manufacturing, and eliminate the energy used in industry. Via was recognized as one of C&EN's 10 startups to watch in 2019, and has received awards from ARPA-E, NSF, and MassCEC. Shreya was awarded Technology Review's 35 Innovators under 35 in 2018.

Shreya holds Bachelors, Masters' and Doctoral degrees from MIT in Mechanical Engineering and Technology & Policy. She also enjoys serving on MIT's Corporate Development Committee, the board of directors for Greentown Labs, and mentoring in MIT's product design and development course, 2.009.

## LALANATH DE SILVA

HEAD, GREEN CLIMATE FUND (GCF) INDEPENDENT REDRESS MECHANISM

@lalanathds

Dr. Lalanath de Silva is the Head of Green Climate Fund's Independent Redress Mechanism. He has extensive experience in administrative, environmental, constitutional and human rights law, with more than 30 years of service as a practicing lawyer. In Sri Lanka, he supported the Ministry of Environment as a legal consultant, and was a member of his country's Law Commission. Lalanath previously worked at the Environmental Claims Unit of the UN Compensation Commission in Geneva, and served as Director of the Environmental Democracy Practice at the World Resources Institute (WRI) in Washington DC. As a member of the Compliance Review Panel of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), he led the review of multiple compliance cases. Lalanath commenced work as Head of the Independent Redress Mechanism of the Green Climate Fund in November 2016. Lalanath has a PhD from the University of Sydney, a Master of Laws from the University of Washington, and graduated from the Sri Lanka Law College as an Attorney-at-Law.

## TASNEEM ESSOP

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK INTERNATIONAL

@TasneemEssop

Tasneem Essop is an expert on climate, energy, poverty and social justice issues and is the Founding Director of the Energy Democracy Initiative in South Africa.

South African born and based, Ms. Essop has significant experience in the climate movement. She has held various senior government positions in South Africa. She was a global climate policy and strategy leader for environmental NGO WWF International and served as the Head of Delegation for the organisation at the UNFCCC including at the Paris COP. During this period she also served on the Board of the Global Call for Climate Action (GCCA) and was an active participant in the work of CAN International.

Tasneem is also serving her second term as Commissioner in the National Planning Commission of South Africa. She was also recently appointed to the Board of Sanparks, the leading conservation authority in South Africa.

Before joining WWF in 2008, she held the positions of Provincial Minister for the Environment, Planning and Economic Development and Provincial Minister of Transport, Public Works and Property Management in the Western Cape.

Before becoming a Member of the Western Cape Provincial Legislature in 1994, she was a trade unionist in COSATU Western Cape. She is a qualified teacher.

Her vast management and leadership experience includes convening and building consensus around common goals amongst stakeholders from government, labour, business and communities, building collaborative partnerships, working in virtual teams across cultures, and building strong organisational governance, with an emphasis on finance.

## NATALIE BRIDGEMAN FIELDS

FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ACCOUNTABILITY COUNSEL

@nataliebfields

Natalie Bridgeman Fields is the Founder and Executive Director of the non-profit organization Accountability Counsel. Over the past decade, Natalie has established a groundbreaking team of lawyers, policy advocates, and researchers who are amplifying the voices of people around the world to defend their human rights and environment. She has been recognized for her social entrepreneurship and innovative approach to systems change by Echoing Green, the Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation, and Stanford University as a SEERS Fellow.

Previously, Natalie served as a consultant on accountability for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the World Bank Inspection Panel. Earlier in her career, as a lawyer at Wilson Sonsini, and through her own law office, she litigated corporate, human rights, and environmental cases in U.S. courts. She has taught courses at Stanford University, Stanford Law School, and American University's law school, and lectures widely at academic institutions and conferences. She is a graduate of Cornell University and UCLA School of Law. She lives in the Bay Area with her husband and three children.



## CHRISTIANA FIGUERES

AUTHOR AND FORMER EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE @CFigueres

Christiana Figueres is a Costa Rican citizen and an internationally recognized leader on climate change. She was Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) from 2010 to 2016.

During her tenure at the UNFCCC, Ms. Figueres brought together national and sub-national governments, corporations and activists, financial institutions and NGOs to jointly deliver the historic Paris Agreement on climate change, in which 195 sovereign nations agreed on a collaborative path forward to limit future global warming to well below 2°C, and strive for 1.5°C, in order to protect the most vulnerable. For this achievement Ms. Figueres has been credited with forging a new brand of collaborative diplomacy and received multiple awards.

Since then Ms. Figueres has continued to accelerate the global response to climate change. Today she is the co-founder of Global Optimism, co-host of the podcast “Outrage & Optimism” and is the co-author of the recently published book, *The Future We Choose: Surviving the Climate Crisis*.

Ms. Figueres sits on multiple executive and advisory boards and is a frequent public speaker and media commentator. She is a graduate of Swarthmore College and the London School of Economics. She lives in Costa Rica and has

## CATHERINE COLEMAN FLOWERS

DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER, CENTER FOR RURAL ENTERPRISE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Catherine Coleman Flowers is the founder of the Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice (CREEJ) which seeks the implementation of best practices to address the reduction of health and economic disparities, improve access to clean air, water, and soil in marginalized rural communities by influencing policy, inspiring innovation, catalyzing relevant research, and amplifying the voices of community leaders. This is done within the context of climate change and through the lens of environmental justice.

A member of the Board of Directors for the Climate Reality Project, she is employed as the Rural Development Manager for the Equal Justice Initiative and serves as a Senior Fellow for the Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary. Her goal is to find solutions to raw sewage that exist in rural communities throughout the United States. Catherine is also an internationally recognized advocate for the human right to water and sanitation and works to make the UN Sustainable Development Agenda accountable to front-line communities. Her journey is chronicled in her book entitled *Waste: One Woman's Fight Against America's Dirty Secret*, which will be published by the New Press this fall.

## KATE FOLB

DIRECTOR, HOLLYWOOD, HEALTH & SOCIETY PROGRAM, USC NORMAN LEAR CENTER @HollywdHealth

Kate Langrall Folb, M.Ed., is director of Hollywood, Health & Society (HH&S), the flagship program of the University of Southern California Annenberg School Norman Lear Center, and a veteran for more than 20 years in the entertainment education field. At HH&S, she leads a team of public health and media professionals to connect entertainment content creators with experts in health, medicine, science, safety and security to ensure accuracy in their depictions. Her team also conducts research on the impact of TV storylines on viewers' knowledge, attitudes and behaviors. After an early career in television and music production, Kate joined the Scott Newman Foundation as director of special projects where she worked with top TV shows and films on portrayals of alcohol and other substance abuse, developed a media literacy program for middle and high school students and produced the foundation's annual public service announcements (PSAs). Later, she served as director of The Media Project, a partnership of Advocates for Youth and the Kaiser Family Foundation, working with entertainment on storylines about HIV/AIDs and other sexually transmitted diseases, teen pregnancy prevention, condom use and sex education. She also produced the annual SHINE Awards for sexual health in entertainment and developed a cutting-edge media campaign for Viacom to normalize condom use and encourage healthy relationships. From 2001–2012 Kate led Nightingale Entertainment, an independent consulting firm garnering celebrity involvement, producing PSAs and coordinating national media events for a variety of health-related causes. She joined Hollywood, Health & Society in July of 2012. Kate speaks fluent Spanish, holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Denver, and a master's degree in education from UCLA.

## WILLY FOOTE

FOUNDER AND CEO, ROOT CAPITAL @rootcapitalceo

Willy Foote is founder and CEO of Root Capital, a nonprofit that offers farmers around the world a path to prosperity by investing in the agricultural businesses that serve as engines of impact in their communities. Root Capital provides these businesses with the capital, training, and access to markets they need in order to grow, thrive, and create opportunities for thousands of farmers at a time. Since its founding in 1999, Root Capital has provided more than \$1.4 billion in loans to 725 agricultural businesses in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Together, these businesses have paid \$4.8 billion directly to the 1.5 million smallholder farmers whose crops they collect and market.

Foote is a Skoll Entrepreneur and an Ashoka Global Fellow. He was named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in 2008, one of *Forbes'* “Impact 30” in 2011, and was a 2012 Henry Crown Fellow of the Aspen Institute. He served for nearly a decade on the Executive Committee of the Aspen Network for Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE), is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and Young Presidents' Organization (YPO), and serves on the Strategic Advisory Council of the Erb Institute for Global Sustainable Enterprise at the University of Michigan. Foote holds an MS in development economics from the London School of Economics and a BA from Yale University.

## KELLY SIMS GALLAGHER

ACADEMIC DEAN AND PROFESSOR OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY,  
THE FLETCHER SCHOOL, TUFTS UNIVERSITY @kellysgallagher

Kelly Sims Gallagher is Academic Dean and Professor of Energy and Environmental Policy at The Fletcher School, Tufts University. She directs the Climate Policy Lab and the Center for International Environment and Resource Policy at Fletcher. She served in the second term of Obama Administration as a Senior Policy Advisor in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and as Senior China Advisor in the Special Envoy for Climate Change office at the U.S. State Department.

Gallagher is a member of the board of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University, serves on the Board on Energy and Environmental Systems of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, and also serves on the board of Energy Foundation China. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Broadly, she focuses on energy innovation and climate policy. She specializes in how policy spurs the development and deployment of cleaner and more efficient energy technologies, domestically and internationally. She is the author of *Titans of the Climate* (The MIT Press 2018), *The Global Diffusion of Clean Energy Technologies: Lessons from China* (MIT Press 2014), *China Shifts Gears: Automakers, Oil, Pollution, and Development* (The MIT Press 2006), and dozens of other articles and book chapters.

## LAURA GARCIA

PRESIDENT AND CEO, GLOBAL GREENGRANTS FUND

Laura is a Mexican feminist who has advocated for human rights, social justice, and civil society throughout her career. Before joining Global Greengrants, Laura served for seven years as the Executive Director of Fondo Semillas, a Mexican nonprofit organization that finances grassroots organizations to achieve gender equality. Laura has vast experience in grassroots philanthropy, human rights, and movements for social justice, and she has co-created networks to promote community philanthropy in the Global South. She holds a Master's Degree in International Peace and Security, from King's College, London. She currently serves on the boards of Oxfam Mexico, Justicia Transicional MX and El Día Después.

## KUMAR GARG

MANAGING DIRECTOR AND HEAD OF PARTNERSHIPS AT SCHMIDT FUTURES  
@KumarAGarg

Kumar Garg is Managing Director and Head of Partnerships at Schmidt Futures. In this role, Kumar works to help all major Schmidt Futures programs find successful leverage, as well as helping to run the Technology and Society portfolio.

He previously helped shape science and technology policy for the Obama Administration for nearly eight years, serving in a variety of roles in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Garg led the Obama Administration's efforts to bolster science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education, including the Educate to Innovate campaign, with more than \$1 billion in in-kind and philanthropic investment; development of major State of the Union initiatives to train

100,000 excellent STEM teachers and bring computer science to all K-12 students; and creation of iconic events such as the White House Science Fair.

Working with the OSTP Deputy Director, he supervised a team of 20 staff with portfolios including broad innovation policy, advanced manufacturing, behavioral sciences, biotechnology, broadband, digital media, entrepreneurship, the maker movement, space, nanotechnology, and prizes. As a senior leader at OSTP, Garg was involved in policy development, implementation, and communication of a wide range of science and technology issues.

After OSTP, Garg spent three years at the Society for Science & the Public as a Senior Fellow.

Prior to his time in government, he worked on behalf of parents and children seeking educational reform as an education lawyer and advocate. He received a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and a law degree from Yale Law School.

## DOUGLAS GRIFFITHS

PRESIDENT, THE OAK FOUNDATION @AmbGriffiths

Doug joined Oak Foundation in January 2019. He is thrilled to have landed at an organisation that allows him knit together his professional experiences advocating for human rights, humanitarian relief, social development and environmental protection.

Before joining Oak Foundation, Doug was a career diplomat promoting democracy, good governance and inclusion across four continents. He served as the US Ambassador to Mozambique from 2012-2015, where he coordinated the investment of over \$1 billion in assistance to support a more sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous society. Doug was the first US representative to the UN Human Rights Council (2009-2010) where he championed ground-breaking resolutions for freedom of expression, protection of minorities, and the first UN resolutions recognising LGBT rights.

Doug has a master's degree in public policy from Princeton University and a bachelor's degree in government from the University of Notre Dame. He likes to spend every free moment in nature and is passionate about protecting the environment for current and future generations.

## HAL HARVEY

CEO, ENERGY INNOVATION @hal\_harvey

Hal Harvey is the CEO of Energy Innovation, a San Francisco-based energy and environmental policy firm. Since its inception in 2012, Energy Innovation has delivered high-quality research and analysis to policymakers around the world and across a range of jurisdictions to help inform their energy policy decisions.

From 1991-2002, Hal served as founder and CEO of the Energy Foundation, a philanthropy supporting policy solutions that advance renewable energy and energy efficiency. He then helped establish Energy Foundation China, the European Climate Foundation, and the Indian Sustainable Energy Foundation. From 2002-2008, he served as Environment Program Director at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

Hal has served on energy panels appointed by Presidents Bush (41) and Clinton, and has published two books and dozens of articles on energy and national security



issues. He is President of the Board of Directors of the New-Land Foundation, Chairman of the Board of MB Financial Corporation, Vice Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board for Mercator Climate Center, and a Senior Fellow for Energy and the Environment at the Paulson Institute. Hal was awarded the Heinz Award for the Environment in 2016, was honored with the United Nations Clean Air and Climate Change Award in 2018, and received the California Air Resources Board's Haagen-Smit Clean Air Award in 2019.

Early in his career, Hal designed and built solar homes, and built an electric car for his commute. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from Stanford University in Engineering, specializing in Energy Planning.

## PAUL HAWKEN

FOUNDER AND AUTHOR, PROJECT DRAWDOWN @PaulHawken

Paul Hawken starts ecological businesses, writes about nature and commerce, and consults with heads of state and CEOs on climatic, economic and ecological regeneration. Companies he created include Erewhon, Smith & Hawken, and OneSun Solar (now called Energy Everywhere). He has appeared on numerous media including the Today Show, Talk of the Nation, Bill Maher, and Charlie Rose, and has been profiled or featured in hundreds of articles including the *Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek*, *Washington Post*, and *Business Week*. He has written eight books including five national and NYT bestsellers: *The Next Economy*, *Growing a Business*, *The Ecology of Commerce*, *Blessed Unrest*, and *Drawdown*. The Ecology of Commerce was voted in 2013 as the #1 college text on business and the environment by professors in 67 business schools. He is published in 50 countries and 30 languages. His book, *Drawdown, The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming* debuted April, 2017 as the #9 NYT bestseller. He is the founder of Project Drawdown, which worked with over two hundred scholars, students, scientists, researchers, and activists to map, measure, and model the one hundred most substantive solutions that can cumulatively reverse global warming by reducing and sequestering greenhouse gases. Drawdown is currently being taught in every grade level from 4th grade on up to MIT graduate school, published in 14 languages and is used and referred to by heads of state. His forthcoming book is entitled *Regeneration: Ending the Climate Crisis in One Generation*, and will be published September 2021 by Penguin. He lives in Mill Valley, California in the Cascade Creek watershed with his wife and coyotes, foxes, bobcats, ravens, red-tail hawks, pileated woodpeckers, and flocks of nuthatches.

## CRYSTAL HAYLING

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE LIBRA FOUNDATION @CHayling

Crystal brings to The Libra Foundation a wealth of domestic and international experience across a broad spectrum of equity-focused issues. For six years, Crystal lived in Singapore where she built bridges between civil society and emerging donors in Southeast Asia to address income inequality and climate change. As managing director of the Aspen Institute's Environmental Fellowship, Crystal designed a global leadership program focused on the food system's impact on the environment.

Feeding her interest in equitable health care, Crystal was CEO of the Blue Shield of California Foundation where she spearheaded work to achieve universal health coverage. She was also part of the founding team at The California Wellness Foundation where she led a groundbreaking initiative to shift youth violence prevention from a criminal justice issue to a public health effort.

She has served on the boards of the Center for Effective Philanthropy, Northern California Grantmakers, Asian Venture Philanthropy Network, and Grantmakers in Health. Most recently Crystal was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to serve on the California State Board of Food and Agriculture. She has also lived and worked in China and Mexico.

Born and raised in Florida, Crystal is a graduate of Yale University and Stanford's Graduate School of Business. She and her husband live in the Bay Area with their two teenage sons.

## ANDREW HSIEH

CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, FEASIBLE @AndrewGHsieh

Andrew Hsieh is Co-Founder and CEO of Feasible Inc., an Emeryville, CA based company that is on a mission to accelerate the transition to electric mobility and renewable energy, by reducing the cost of batteries. They are commercializing proprietary ultrasound-based technology that increases productivity in battery production, improves the efficiency of battery operation, and helps unlock the residual value of old EV batteries in renewable energy storage. Feasible Inc. is supported by Chrysalix Ventures, Incite Labs, Elemental Excelsior, ARPA-E, NSF, and other private investors. Andrew is an Activate Alumni Fellow. He holds a BS in Chemical Engineering from UCLA and a PhD in Chemical & Materials Engineering from Princeton University.

## HINDOU OUMAROU IBRAHIM

PRESIDENT, ASSOCIATION FOR INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND PEOPLES OF CHAD (AFPAT)

As an indigenous woman from Mbororo pastoralist community of Chad, Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, has been an advocate for the rights of indigenous peoples and the protection of the environment for over 15 years. She is leading a community-based organization in Chad, AFPAT, which is active in most international Sustainable Development Goal areas, including climate change and biodiversity, health, and education. She led several projects that improved indigenous peoples' access to basic needs, while promoting their unique contribution to the protection of the environment. 3D participatory mapping, for instance, helps to prevent resource-based conflicts in one of the poorest and most vulnerable regions of the world.

Hindou has also participated for over a decade in high-level international policy discussions advocating for environmental protection for indigenous peoples through the Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification Conventions. She co-chaired the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) and was a coordinator of the world indigenous peoples' initiative and pavilion for COP21, COP22 and COP23. In 2016, she was selected to be the speaker representing civil society at the 2016 signing ceremony of the historic Paris Agreement.

Hindou is an expert on adaptation of indigenous peoples to and mitigation of climate change, traditional knowledge on the adaptation of pastoralists in Africa, and indigenous women's empowerment. She is very active in various forums and networks to advocate for the cause of indigenous peoples. In 2016, she was recognized as a National Geographic Explorer, and since 2018 she has served as Senior Indigenous Fellow for Conservation International.

## SUZANNE JONES

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ECO-CYCLE

Suzanne Jones has 30 years of public policy experience at the local, state and federal level. She is currently executive director of Eco-Cycle, one of the nation's oldest non-profit recyclers dedicated to innovating, implementing, and advocating for recycling, composting and other zero waste efforts. Suzanne also recently finished eight years of public service on the Boulder City Council (2011-2019), the last four as Boulder's mayor. Previously, Suzanne worked 16 years for The Wilderness Society, where she served as the Central Rockies Regional Director leading coalition efforts to protect our nation's public lands. Before moving back to Colorado, Suzanne worked in Washington, D.C. for the National Wildlife Federation and as congressional staff for the Fisheries and Wildlife Subcommittee in the U.S. House of Representatives. Suzanne has a M.S. in Resource Policy and Management from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and a B.S. in Natural Resources from Cornell University.

## TESSA KHAN

CO-DIRECTOR, CLIMATE LITIGATION NETWORK, URGENDA FOUNDATION

@tessakhan

Tessa Khan is an human rights lawyer and advocate working on climate change. She has spent most of the past 10 years working at the intersection of human rights and sustainable development policy and has supported grassroots, regional and international human rights movements. She is a lawyer with the Urgenda Foundation, which won a world-first case against the Government of the Netherlands demanding the government slash national greenhouse gas emissions, and is a Co-Director and co-founder of the Climate Litigation Network. She was recently named by *TIME* magazine as one of fifteen women leading the fight against climate change.

## BAN KI-MOON

FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UN @UN

Ban Ki-moon is a South Korean diplomat who was the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations from January 2007 to December 2016. Before becoming Secretary-General, Mr. Ban was a career diplomat in South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in the United Nations.

As the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon's priorities were to mobilize world leaders around a set of new global challenges, from climate change and economic upheaval to pandemics and increasing pressures involving food, energy and water. He was a bridge-builder, giving a voice to the world's poorest and most vulnerable people, and strengthening the Organization itself.

One of the Secretary-General's first major initiatives was the 2007 Climate Change Summit, followed by extensive diplomatic efforts that have helped put the issue at the forefront of the global agenda. At the height of the food, energy and economic crises in 2008, the Secretary-General successfully appealed to the G20 for a \$1 trillion financing package for developing countries.

Under Ban's leadership in 2015 countries adopted a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved until 2030 and to leave no one behind.

Mr. Ban also led the efforts for the Paris Climate Agreement, which entered into force in 2016 less than a year later. Countries agreed to work to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius, and given the grave risks, to strive for 1.5 degrees Celsius.

## JENNIFER KITT

CEO, CLIMATE LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

Jennifer Kitt is the founding president of the Climate Leadership Initiative (CLI) where she leads the organization as it builds a model to harness philanthropists' interest, passion and generosity to increase philanthropic funding for the most profound challenge of our time. As an advisor to donors and a trusted strategic partner for organizations working to address the climate crisis, she is focused on building

a community to bring new donors into the climate space to fund promising, far-reaching solutions.

Jennifer brings more than 20 years of experience working with philanthropists, corporations and foundations to fund high-impact causes. She also brings decades of experience in community building, philanthropic collaboration and complex problem solving.

Prior to joining CLI, Jennifer was the chief development officer for Stanford University's Medical Center Development, Stanford's largest fundraising team with more than 140 staff focused on serving both the School of Medicine and the Stanford Health Care clinical system. At Stanford, Jennifer worked closely with distinguished faculty and University leaders, trustees and members of the Stanford Medicine boards. She helped grow fundraising during her 7+ years there from \$150M annually to more than \$300M annually for fundamental research, clinical research, and research and clinical buildings, including the new Stanford Hospital.

Before Stanford, Jennifer served in senior management roles at UC Berkeley, including leading development programs for Parents, Reunions and Campaign Regions. Prior to working in higher education, she was a Senior Attorney for IBM, where she learned to think strategically, solve complex problems and build partnerships even in tough negotiations. Jennifer earned her doctor of jurisprudence and bachelor of science degrees at Georgetown University. She is fluent in French.

Jennifer serves as a fundraising consultant to several faith organizations in the Episcopal diocese and Jewish congregations and is a board member at Synapse School in Menlo Park. As the mother of two boys, Jennifer is focused every day on the responsibility of our generation at this moment in time to heal planet Earth.

## LARRY KRAMER

PRESIDENT AND CEO, WILLIAM AND FLORA HEWLETT FOUNDATION

@Hewlett\_Found

Larry Kramer has been President of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation since 2012. Under his leadership, the foundation has maintained its commitment to areas of enduring concern, while adapting its approaches and strategies to meet changing circumstances and seize new opportunities. He has, at the same time, been instrumental in launching new efforts to respond to pressing and timely problems, such as challenges related to political polarization and cybersecurity.

Since joining the Hewlett Foundation, he has written and spoken about issues related to effective philanthropy, including the importance of collaboration among funders and the need to provide grantees with long-term support. He frequently lectures and writes about broad societal issues, from global climate change to the challenge of maintaining democratic government in the 21st century.

Before joining the foundation, Larry served from 2004 to 2012 as Richard E. Lang Professor of Law and Dean of Stanford Law School. During his tenure, he spearheaded significant educational reforms, pioneering a new model of multidisciplinary legal studies while enlarging the clinical education program and incorporating a public service ethos. His teaching and scholarly interests include American legal history, constitutional law, federalism, separation of powers, the federal courts, conflict of laws, and civil procedure.

At the start of his career, Larry served as law clerk to U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Henry J. Friendly of the Second Circuit and U.S. Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan Jr. Following his clerkships, Larry served as professor of law at the University of Chicago and University of Michigan law schools. He joined the faculty of New York University School of Law in 1994, where he served as Associate Dean for Research and Academics and Russell D. Niles Professor of Law until leaving for Stanford in 2004. Before joining Stanford, he also served as a special consultant for Mayer Brown, LLP.

Larry is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the American Philosophical Society and the American Law Institute. He serves as a director on the boards of a number of nonprofit organizations, including the National Constitution Center, Independent Sector, and the ClimateWorks Foundation.

Larry received an A.B. in Psychology and Religious Studies from Brown University, graduating magna cum laude in 1980, and a J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School, magna cum laude, in 1984. He is the author of numerous articles and books, including “The People Themselves: Popular Constitutionalism and Judicial Review.”

## AMY LUERS

DIRECTOR, SUSTAINABILITY IN THE DIGITAL AGE INITIATIVE, FUTURE EARTH

@amyluers

Amy Luers is senior advisor of Future Earth and director of the Sustainability in the Digital Age Initiative. She also sits on the Foresight Committee of the Veolia Institute. Luers has over 25 years of experience working on sustainability at the intersection of science, technology, and policy. She served as assistant director of climate resilience

and information in the Obama White House. Previously, Luers was senior environment manager at Google and spent a number of years directing the water and climate security investments at the Skoll Global Threats Fund. Luers is a member of the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations and has served on committees of the U.S. Global Change Research Program and the National Academies of Sciences.

Dr. Luers started her career working in rural water development in Latin America as co-founder and the first executive director of Agua Para La Vida (Water for Life). She sits on several advisory boards including the Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative, the International Observatory on AI and Digital Technologies, and the US National Council for Science and the Environment. Luers holds a Ph.D. in environmental science and an M.A. in international policy studies, from Stanford University; a B.S. and M.S. in environmental systems engineering from Humboldt State University; and a B.A. in philosophy from Middlebury College. She has published in both peer-reviewed and popular media on big data and the digital age, science communication, climate policy and vulnerability and resilience of human-environmental systems.

## AL MACCUISH

CO-FOUNDER AND CREATIVE CHAIRMAN, SUNSHINE

Al MacCuish is one of the world's leading experts on the power of brand, purpose and story in the modern media landscape. He specialises in luxury, fashion, media and lifestyle categories. He co-founded Sunshine in 2012 and serves as Creative Chairman. He has led Sunshine's purpose driven initiatives for Gucci's Chime for Change; Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction, BBC Earth's Real Happiness Project, Nike's 'Girl Effect and Adidas Communities initiative. He has led over 30 successful brand repositioning and transformation projects for businesses as diverse as US TV portfolio, A+E networks; music entertainment giant and global festival owner, AEG Presents; Europe's biggest fashion E-tail platform, Zalando and luxury retail icon, Harrods.

He has developed a proprietary transformation methodology that architects change based on universal themes and archetypes.

Al serves on the board of the London Philharmonic Orchestra and was named one of Britain's most influential people by *Debrett's* and *Sunday Times*.

## ANNE MAFTEI

LEARNING MANAGER AT THE THE RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL FINANCE LEARNING LAB, MASTERCARD FOUNDATION

Anne is the Lab's Learning Manager, tasked with supporting portfolio partners to improve the way they capture, synthesize and apply learnings in real-time to strengthen their program designs and improve outcomes. Anne has extensive experience working with non-profit organisations, financial service providers and the private sector to develop and implement innovative financial inclusion interventions, with a specific focus on rural and agricultural finance.

Prior to joining the Learning Lab, Anne was Senior Analyst in One Acre Fund's Microfinance Partnerships team, where she managed the Propagate Coalition and oversaw the development and launch of the Smallholder Finance Product Explorer, in close partnership with MIX and the RAF Learning Lab. Previously, she was Associate

Program Manager in the MasterCard Foundation's Financial Inclusion team, and also co-founded and led the Foundation's internal Gender working group.

Anne holds a Masters degree in International Security from Sciences-Po Paris, and a BA in Political Science from the University of British Columbia.

## WANJIRA MATHAI

VICE PRESIDENT AND REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA, WORLD RESOURCE INSTITUTE @MathaiWanjira

Wanjira Mathai is the Vice President and Regional Director for Africa at WRI.

She formerly served as Co-chair of WRI's Global Restoration Council and a Senior Advisor to the Global Restoration Initiative. She is the current Chair of the Wangari Maathai Foundation and the former Chair of the Green Belt Movement in Kenya.

An inspiring leader, Wanjira has over 20 years of experience advocating for social and environmental change on both local and international platforms. Over the years, Wanjira has also served important strategic and advocacy roles raising the prominence and visibility of global issues such as climate change, youth leadership, sustainable energy, and landscape restoration, at Women Entrepreneurs in Renewables (wPOWER) and the Green Belt Movement the organization her mother (2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate) founded in 1977.

Wanjira currently serves on the Board of the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF) and as an advisory council member of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves. Wanjira is one of a few Six Seconds EQ Practitioners in Kenya and was one of the 100 Most Influential Africans in 2018. Wanjira has a master's degree in Public Health and Business from Emory University, USA.

## HEATHER MCGRAY

DIRECTOR, CLIMATE JUSTICE RESILIENCE FUND @HMcGray

Heather McGray is Director of the Climate Resilience Practice. Under her leadership, Climate Resilience at WRI has grown from a one-person project in 2007 to a cross-cutting practice with teammates in India, the US, and Brazil. Heather also works with teams across WRI—including Finance, Economics, and Cities—to integrate climate resilience into the institute's work. In particular, she is leading the creation of a body of work on urban climate resilience within the WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities.

Prior to taking on WRI's resilience portfolio, Heather worked on the Access Initiative team, where she focused on the role of transparency, participation, and access to justice in addressing environmental problems, including research and civil society training in China's Yunnan Province. Before joining WRI, Heather's professional experience included research on environmental management in China; research and negotiations on ISO 14000 environmental standards; coordination of an urban education and development network in New Haven, CT; and management of educational exchange programs for the Yale-China Association.

Heather speaks Mandarin, and holds a Master's of Environmental Management from Yale University as well as a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Oberlin College.

## BILL MCKIBBEN

AUTHOR AND ENVIRONMENTALIST @billmckibben

Bill McKibben is an author and environmentalist who in 2014 was awarded the Right Livelihood Prize, sometimes called the 'alternative Nobel.' His 1989 book *The End of Nature* is regarded as the first book for a general audience about climate change, and has appeared in 24 languages; he's gone on to write a dozen more books. He is a founder of 350.org, the first planet-wide, grassroots climate change movement, which has organized twenty thousand rallies around the world in every country save North Korea, spearheaded the resistance to the Keystone Pipeline, and launched the fast-growing fossil fuel divestment movement.

The Schumann Distinguished Scholar in Environmental Studies at Middlebury College and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, he was the 2013 winner of the Gandhi Prize and the Thomas Merton Prize, and holds honorary degrees from 18 colleges and universities. *Foreign Policy* named him to their inaugural list of the world's 100 most important global thinkers, and the Boston Globe said he was "probably America's most important environmentalist."

A former staff writer for the New Yorker, he writes frequently for a wide variety of publications around the world, including the *New York Review of Books*, *National Geographic*, and *Rolling Stone*. He lives in the mountains above Lake Champlain with his wife, the writer Sue Halpern, where he spends as much time as possible outdoors. In 2014, biologists honored him by naming a new species of woodland gnat—*Megophthalmidia mckibbeni*—in his honor.

## JOANNA MESSING

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GROWALD FAMILY FUND @JoMessing

Joanna joined Growald Family Fund in 2007 to develop and implement its philanthropic strategy and to provide capacity-building and networking guidance to help portfolio partners scale up their programs for maximum impact. In her role as Executive Director, Joanna takes a lead on convening and bridging funders and NGOs, particularly in the key issues of finance, health, and water and how they relate to energy choices and climate. She has more than 15 years of experience in nonprofit sustainability, social enterprise development and venture philanthropy.

Prior to Growald Family Fund, Joanna ran her own company Positive Ventures, a philanthropic and social enterprise strategy consulting firm. Previously she was associate director of REDF (previously Roberts Enterprise Development Fund), a leading venture philanthropy fund, and she was also the director of NESsT Consulting and Enterprise Development, where she helped launch and implement the NESsT Venture Fund, investing in social enterprises throughout Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America.

Joanna received her MBA from the University of Massachusetts. Having grown up well off the grid, she brings a deeply rooted ethic of sustainability to both her role at the Growald Family Fund and her own household.



**LOUIS J. MUGLIA**

PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BURROUGHS WELLCOME FUND @MugliaLouis

Louis Muglia, MD PhD is President and CEO of the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, an independent nonprofit research foundation. Previously, he served as Vice Chair for Research, Cincinnati Children's Research Foundation, Director of the Division of Human Genetics, Co-Director of the Perinatal Institute and Director of the Center for Prevention of Preterm Birth at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, and Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. In addition, he serves as Principal Coordinating Investigator of the March of Dimes Prematurity Research Center Ohio Collaborative. The goal of the Muglia laboratory is to understand the molecular timing machinery comprising the biological clock that determines the timing for birth, and how this is shaped by the environment, to prevent or better treat human preterm labor and delivery utilizing genetic and comparative genomic approaches.

Among Dr. Muglia's achievements are more than 270 publications and many awards, including the Society of Pediatric Research Young Investigator Award, and election to the American Society for Clinical Investigation and Association of American Physicians. In 2010, Dr. Muglia was elected to Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2013, Dr. Muglia was elected to membership in the National Academy of Medicine. He has been the recipient of outstanding faculty mentor awards on 7 occasions including Senior Faculty Mentor Award at Cincinnati Children's, and served as chair of the Board of Scientific Counselors to the NICHD. In January of 2020, Dr. Muglia became President and CEO of the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, a foundation accelerating discovery in the biomedical sciences.

Dr. Muglia earned his Doctor of Medicine (1988) and Doctor of Philosophy (1986) degrees from the University of Chicago. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in biophysics from the University of Michigan in 1981.

**VANESSA NAKATE**

CLIMATE ACTIVIST @vanessa\_vash

Vanessa Nakate is a climate activist from Uganda. She was the First Fridays For Future climate activist in Uganda and founder of the Rise up Climate Movement in order to amplify the voices of activists from Africa. Her work includes raising awareness to the danger of climate change, the causes and the impacts. She spearheaded the campaign, Save Congo rain forest which is facing massive deforestation. This campaign later spread to other countries from Africa to Europe. She is working on a project that involves installation of solar and institutional stoves in schools.

**LESLEY NDLOVU**

CEO, AXA AFRICA SPECIALTY RISKS @ndlovu\_lesley

Lesley Ndlovu was the former CEO of AXA Africa Specialty Risks, a Lloyd's of London insurance syndicate and has extensive international experience spanning 14 years across corporate finance, audit, tax advisory, insurance and investment management sectors in several countries including Bermuda, Singapore, France and the United Kingdom.

Ndlovu is a graduate of the University of Oxford in England and at the Institut Européen d'Administration des Affaires (INSEAD) in France. He is a CFA charter holder, a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England & Wales and a member of the Institute of Directors.

**JEFFREY NEAL**

FOUNDER, LOOP CLOSING

Jeffrey served a 24-year career with the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps, leading innovation and change at U.S. Navy and Marine Corps facilities worldwide. Troubled by the lack of options for diverting food scraps and the devastating impacts of current practices on our planet and people, he committed to becoming a part of the solution. Jeffrey started his formal compost training in 2014, completing the Neighborhood Soil Rebuilder's Master Composting Course. Since then, he has presented at the U.S. Compost Council, BioCycle East, Rooting DC, Vermiculture conferences, and as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University teaching urban composting. In addition to his honors and accomplishments for meritorious military service, he is a licensed professional engineer, compost facility operator, and a level 3 contracting officer. Loop Closing's merits include coverage by The Washington Post and Washington, DC's CBS affiliate. Loop Closing was also the winner of the Best Compost contest in DC's 2016 and 2017 State Fair. Jeffrey earned his BS in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford and MS from UC Berkeley.

**TREVOR NEILSON**

CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, I(X) INVESTMENTS AND BOARD CHAIR, CLIMATE EMERGENCY FUND @trevor\_neilson

Trevor Neilson is Co-founder and CEO of i(x) investments, an entrepreneurial, multi-strategy impact investing platform, structured as a holding company, addressing areas of human need. To date, under Neilson's leadership, i(x) has launched platforms in the following areas: Renewable Energy, Carbon to Value, Waste to Energy, Green Commercial Real Estate, Attainable Housing, Gender Equality, Education and Media.

Prior to launching i(x) investments, Neilson served as President of G2 Investment Group where he helped lead the firm's initiatives in energy, real estate and security.

Before his work with G2, Neilson was co-founder of the advisory firm, the Global Philanthropy Group. In that capacity, he has been involved in the creation and implementation of many of the world's most respected philanthropic initiatives and has worked with over fifty major philanthropists.

Neilson's leadership in business and social change includes time as the Executive Director of the Global Business Coalition (GBC). GBC is a coalition of over 200 multinational companies focused on global health issues and created with investments from Bill Gates and Ted Turner amongst others. In this capacity, Neilson reported to Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, former United States Ambassador to the United Nations and President Obama's former Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Prior to his leadership of the GBC, Neilson worked closely with Bill & Melinda Gates, both in their family office and as Director of Special Projects and as a founding

member of the team that created and launched the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation where he served as the Director of Public Affairs.

Named by the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader, Neilson served in the White House during the Clinton administration and served on the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre International Advisory Network.

Neilson serves as a Co-founder and Chair of the Advisory Board of Sustainable Future, an initiative of i(x) investments and The Prince's Foundation that engages the world's leading families to identify and make investments that help address the climate emergency and other global sustainability issues.

He also serves as Co-founder and Chairman of the Climate Emergency Fund and as Co-founder of The Philippines Foundation, which is dedicated to building a bright future for the people of the Philippines through sustainable development programs with a focus on health, education, human rights, the environment, and poverty alleviation.

## MICHELLE NUNN

CEO, CARE USA @MichelleNunn

Since July 2015, Michelle Nunn has been president and CEO of CARE USA, a leading humanitarian organization that fights global poverty and provides lifesaving assistance in emergencies. In the last fiscal year, CARE worked in 100 countries and directly reached nearly 70 million people.

Nunn took the helm of CARE in 2015 and has spearheaded an ambitious strategy to reach 200 million of the world's most vulnerable people by 2020. Under Nunn's leadership, CARE has invested in innovative new programs and partnerships with private corporations and other nonprofits to increase its impact. Since assuming leadership of CARE, Nunn has set a goal of increasing CARE's micro-savings program from 7 million participants to 60 million participants by 2028.

Before joining CARE, Nunn had built an illustrious career of civic and public service as a social entrepreneur, a nonprofit CEO, and a candidate for the U.S. Senate. She co-founded the volunteer-mobilization organization Hands On Atlanta, and expanded it from a single entity to a national network of more than 50 affiliates. Nunn oversaw that group's merger with Points of Light, creating the world's largest organization dedicated to volunteer service, with affiliates across the globe engaging more than 70,000 corporations and nonprofit organizations. Nunn served as Points of Light CEO from 2007 to 2013.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Virginia, Nunn majored in history with a minor in religion and earned her Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She also received a Kellogg Fellowship to study faith and social justice in more than a dozen countries, from Peru to Namibia to Jordan.

## ANTHONY NYONG

DIRECTOR, CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREEN GROWTH DEPARTMENT, AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Professor Anthony Nyong has around 30 years of experience in environmental and natural resources management, renewable energy and green growth. Positions he has held at the African Development Bank include Coordinator of the New Deal on Energy Initiative; Head of the Gender, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Unit; and Head of the Compliance and Safeguards Division.

Before joining the Bank, he was a Senior Climate Change Specialist at the International Development Research Centre of Canada and a Professor of Climate Change at the University of Jos, Nigeria. He was a Coordinating Lead Author for the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report and a member of the IPCC Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impact and Climate Analysis.

Mr Nyong has served on several Global Advisory and Scientific Boards including the Sustainable Stock Exchange Green Finance Advisory Group. He holds a PhD in Geographical Science from McMaster University, Canada. Mr Nyong is a Senior Executive Fellow of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, a Chartered Geographer and a Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences. He is named among the top 20 of the 100 most Influential People in Climate Policy 2019 by Apolitical.

## MARGO OGE

DISTINGUISHED FELLOW, CLIMATE WORKS AND FORMER DIRECTOR, US EPA OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION AND AIR QUALITY @margotoge

Ms. Oge served with the US Environmental Protection Agency for 32 years from 1980 to September 2012. She is widely recognized as having been a key architect of the Agency's efforts to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

Currently she serves as a Distinguished Fellow with the ClimateWorks Foundation; a member of the Volkswagen Group's International Sustainability Council; Chair of the Board of the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT); member of the Board of the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS). She serves as a member of the Advisory Committee of the US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) and as an Advisor to Square Roots, a life sciences company for maternal care. She is also a Forbes Contributor.

During her recent 18-year tenure as Director of the Office of Transportation and Air Quality, Ms. Oge was the chief architect of the most important achievements in the history of air pollution control in the U.S. transportations sector. These included programs that reduced emissions from automobiles and gasoline fuel, trucks, buses, off-road vehicles including locomotives marine vessels and diesel fuel up to 99 percent. Combined, the programs are estimated to prevent over 40,000 premature deaths and hundreds of thousands of respiratory illnesses each year.

Ms. Oge led the EPA's first-ever national greenhouse gas emission standards for cars to double fuel efficiency by 2025, reduce GHG emissions by 50% and save consumers \$1.7 Trillion at the pump. Also, she led EPA's first greenhouse gas standard for medium and heavy-duty trucks. In parallel, she led the implementation of the renewable fuels standard, which will significantly increase the volume of biofuels in our nation's fuel

supply. These new rules are viewed as some of the most significant steps forward in improving the sustainability of the U.S. transportation sector.

She was also instrumental in establishing the UN process on global harmonization of transportation emissions standards worldwide, helping China to design policies and programs to address pollution from cars and fuels and working with numerous governments for a sustainable transportation sector.

Previously, Ms. Oge served as the Director of the Office of Radiation and Indoor Air. Under her leadership, EPA addressed indoor air pollution and developed the scientific findings that raised the world's awareness about the health dangers of secondhand smoke and radon. She also initiated the program for the first nuclear waste repository located in New Mexico. Earlier in her career, she led the creation of EPA's Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Program that tracks and reports the release to the environment of 650 toxic chemicals. TRI became a powerful "Community Right to Know Program".

Ms. Oge earned her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Engineering from the University of Massachusetts. She also studied Economics at the George Washington University and completed the Government Senior Executive Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

## JACQUELINE PATTERSON

DIRECTOR OF THE NAACP ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE PROGRAM

Jacqueline Patterson is the Director of the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program. Since 2007 Patterson has served as coordinator & co-founder of Women of Color United. Jacqui Patterson has worked as a researcher, program manager, coordinator, advocate and activist working on women's rights, violence against women, HIV&AIDS, racial justice, economic justice, and environmental and climate justice. Patterson served as a Senior Women's Rights Policy Analyst for ActionAid where she integrated a women's rights lens for the issues of food rights, macroeconomics, and climate change as well as the intersection of violence against women and HIV&AIDS. Previously, she served as Assistant Vice-President of HIV/AIDS Programs for IMA World Health providing management and technical assistance to medical facilities and programs in 23 countries in Africa and the Caribbean. Patterson served as the Outreach Project Associate for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and Research Coordinator for Johns Hopkins University. She also served as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Jamaica, West Indies.

Patterson's publications/articles include: "Jobs vs Health: An Unnecessary Dilemma", "Climate Change is a Civil Rights Issue", "Gulf Oil Drilling Disaster: Gendered Layers of Impact", "Disasters, Climate Change Uproot Women of Color"; "Coal Blooded; Putting Profits Before People"; "Just Energy Policies: Reducing Pollution, Creating Jobs": "And the People Shall Lead: Centralizing Frontline Community Leadership in the Movement Towards a Sustainable Planet"; and book chapter, "Equity in Disasters: Civil and Human Rights Challenges in the Context of Emergency Events" in the book *Building Community Resilience Post-Disaster*.

Patterson holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Maryland and a master's degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University. She currently serves

on the International Committee of the US Social Forum, the Steering Committee for Interfaith Moral Action on Climate, Advisory Board for Center for Earth Ethics as well as on the Boards of Directors for the Institute of the Black World, Center for Story Based Strategy and the US Climate Action Network.

## CHARLOTTE PERA

CEO, CLIMATEWORKS FOUNDATION @PeraCharlotte

Charlotte Pera is President and CEO of the ClimateWorks Foundation, a leading philanthropic organization that works globally to mobilize philanthropy and advance climate solutions. Charlotte previously held leadership roles for more than a decade at the Energy Foundation, including Senior Vice President and Director of US Programs, and US Transportation Program Director. She helped launch the Energy Foundation's program in China and supported the creation of the European Climate Foundation. Earlier in her career (1991-1999), Charlotte analyzed advanced vehicle technologies, developed emissions inventory models, and designed public programs to reduce vehicle pollution at engineering consulting firm Acurex Environmental.

Charlotte serves on the supervisory board of the European Climate Foundation and the Stewardship Board of the World Economic Forum System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Environment and Natural Resource Security. She served for many years as a founding board member of the International Council for Clean Transportation. Charlotte holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in mechanical engineering from Stanford University.

## SAHITHI PINGALI

STUDENT, STANFORD UNIVERSITY AND FINALIST AT THE SOCIETY'S INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR (ISEF) @PingaliSahithi

Sahithi Pingali is a Student at Stanford University and Alumna, Society for Science & the Public. She was prominently featured in the "Inventing Tomorrow" documentary that premiered at Sundance in 2018 for her experience preparing for and competing as a finalist at the Society's International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in 2017 where she competed in the Earth and Environmental Sciences category with her project, "An Innovative Crowdsourcing Approach to Monitoring Freshwater Bodies." The project tackled the lack of ongoing scientific data about the health of freshwater bodies through crowdsource monitoring of those bodies to interested citizens. At ISEF 2017, her project won four awards including the USAID Global Development Innovation First Place Award.

After ISEF, Pingali grew her project into WaterInsights, a non-profit organization focussed on environmental education and citizen science based water data collection. WaterInsights kits have been used by classrooms in 13 different states across the U.S, generating thousands of water testing data points. She is currently a student at Stanford University.



## JARED POLIS

GOVERNOR OF COLORADO

Governor Polis is an entrepreneur, education leader, and public servant. He started his first business, American Information Systems, while in college out of his dorm room. By the time he was 30, he'd launched three successful companies, including ProFlowers, one of the world's leading online flower retailers. Jared's pioneering role in the internet economy earned him an "Entrepreneur of the Year" distinction from Ernst and Young.

Following these business success, Governor Polis committed himself to making sure other Coloradans had the opportunity to pursue their dreams. He co-founded Techstars, a startup accelerator that mentors entrepreneurs from all walks of life, and Patriot Boot Camp, which helps veterans start their own small businesses after coming home from their service.

In addition to his career as an entrepreneur, much of Governor Polis' adult life has been focused on improving public education. He served six years on the State Board of Education, where he worked to raise pay for teachers and reduce class size for students. He also founded several public charter schools for at-risk youth, and served as superintendent of one of them, the New America School, which helps immigrants earn their high school diploma.

Most recently, Governor Polis served as the U.S. representative for Colorado's Second Congressional District, which stretches from Larimer County and the Wyoming border, to the Central Mountains at the heart of Colorado's tourism economy, to Boulder and the U.S. 36 high-tech corridor. During his time in Congress, the Center for Effective Lawmaking ranked Governor Polis the most effective member of Colorado's House delegation due to his success working across the aisle to improve Colorado's schools, protect public lands, and support startups and small businesses.

Governor Polis is a Colorado native, born in 1975. He, his partner Marlon, and their two children are all avid Rockies fans.

## MARY ROBINSON

FORMER PRESIDENT OF IRELAND AND FOUNDER, MARY ROBINSON FOUNDATION  
- CLIMATE JUSTICE @MaryRobinsonCtr

Mary Robinson is Adjunct Professor for Climate Justice in Trinity College Dublin and Chair of The Elders. She served as President of Ireland from 1990-1997 and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights from 1997-2002. She is a member of the Club of Madrid and the recipient of numerous honours and awards including the Presidential Medal of Freedom from the President of the United States Barack Obama. Between 2013 and 2016 Mary served as the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy in three roles; first for the Great Lakes region of Africa, then on Climate Change and most recently as his Special Envoy on El Niño and Climate. Her Foundation, the Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice, established in 2010, came to a planned end in April 2019.

A former President of the International Commission of Jurists and former chair of the Council of Women World Leaders she was President and founder of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative from 2002-2010 and served as Honorary President of Oxfam International from 2002-2012.

Mary Robinson serves as Patron of the International Science Council and Patron of the Board of the Institute of Human Rights and Business, is an Ambassador for The B Team, in addition to being a board member of several organisations including the Mo Ibrahim Foundation and the Aurora Foundation. She was Chancellor of the University of Dublin from 1998 to 2019. Mary's memoir, 'Everybody Matters' was published in September 2012 and her book, 'Climate Justice—Hope, Resilience and the Fight for a Sustainable Future' was published in September 2018.

## JUAN MANUEL SANTOS

FORMER PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA @JuanManSantos

Juan Manuel Santos was the President of Colombia, from 2010 to 2018, and the sole recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2016 for "his resolute efforts to bring the country's more than 50-year-long civil war to an end".

He was one of the initial promoters of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that became the world agenda in 2015 (he officially proposed them in the Rio+20 Summit in 2012). For his aggressive environmental policies to protect his country's biodiversity and fight climate change, he was awarded the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew International Medal and the Wildlife Conservation Society Theodore Roosevelt Award for Conservation Leadership. Furthermore, the National Geographic Society honored him for his unwavering commitment to conservation and Conservation International awarded him the Global Visionary Award.

Before being President, he was Minister of Foreign Trade, Minister of Finance and Minister of Defense.

Santos graduated with honors from the Colombian Naval Academy in Cartagena. He holds a Business and Economics degree from the University of Kansas (1969) and did post-graduate studies in the London School of Economics (1973-1974), in the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and in Harvard University as a Fulbright fellow, where he obtained a Master's in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government (1981). He was a Nieman Fellow (1987-1988) and Angelopoulos Global Public Leaders Fellow also at Harvard (2018-2019). He has been awarded honorary doctorate degrees in various universities, including La Sorbonne and the London School of Economics.

He is currently the Chairman of the Board of COMPAZ Foundation, which he created to promote peace, protect the environment and fight poverty. He is also part of The Elders and the Global Commission on Drug Policy, as well as a member of the board of the International Crisis Group and the Wildlife Conservation Society. He is a visiting professor at Oxford University. In addition, he was recently elected as a member of the Rockefeller Foundation Board of Trustees, and he was appointed as Arnhold Distinguished Fellow by Conservation International.

Santos is married and has two sons, one daughter and one granddaughter.

## PETER SELIGMANN

CEO, NIA TERO AND CHAIRMAN, CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

@peter\_seligmann

Peter A. Seligmann is the Chairman of the Board and Founder of Conservation International, a global nonprofit organization that he co-founded in 1987. Under Peter's leadership, Conservation International has become a cutting edge leader in valuing and sustainably caring for nature for the well-being of people. Peter, a dynamic communicator and thought leader, has been an influential and inspiring voice in conservation for nearly 40 years. He works in partnership with governments, communities, and businesses to find solutions to ensure the sustainability of our natural resources.

Peter serves on the advisory council for the Jackson Hole Land Trust and is a Director at First Eagle Holdings, Inc. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and served on the Coca-Cola Company's International Advisory Committee from 2011-2014. Peter was also named to the Enterprise for the America's Board by President Clinton in 2000.

Peter began his career in 1976 with The Nature Conservancy, serving as the organization's western region land steward, and later became the director of the California Nature Conservancy. He holds a Master of Science in Forestry and Environmental Science from Yale University and a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Ecology from Rutgers University. Peter has Honorary Doctorates in Science from Michigan State University and Rutgers University.

## RAJIV SHAH

PRESIDENT, ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

Since 2017 Dr. Rajiv J. Shah has served as President of The Rockefeller Foundation, a global institution with a mission to promote the well-being of humanity around the world.

Appointed USAID Administrator by President Obama in 2009, Dr. Shah reshaped the \$20 billion agency's operations in more than 70 countries around the world by elevating the role of innovation, creating high impact public-private partnerships, and focusing US investments to deliver stronger results. He also led the U.S. response to the Haiti earthquake and the West African Ebola pandemic, served on the National Security Council, and elevated the role of development as part of our nation's foreign policy. Prior to his appointment at USAID, Shah served as Chief Scientist and Undersecretary for Research, Education and Economics at the United States Department of Agriculture.

Previously, Shah founded Latitude Capital, a private equity firm focused on power and infrastructure projects in Africa and Asia, and served as a Distinguished Fellow in Residence at Georgetown University. At the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, he created the International Financing Facility for Immunization which helped reshape the global vaccine industry and save millions of lives.

Raised outside of Detroit, Michigan, Dr. Shah is a graduate of the University of Michigan, the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, and the Wharton School of Business.

## ANDREW STEER

CEO, WORLD RESOURCE INSTITUTE

Dr. Andrew Steer is the President and CEO of the World Resources Institute, a global research-into-action organization dedicated to promoting economic development while protecting the natural environment.

WRI's more than 950 experts work in more than 80 countries, from offices in Brazil, China, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Turkey, the United States, and the United Kingdom. WRI focuses on seven urgent global challenges: food, forests, water, energy, urbanization, climate change and the ocean.

Dr. Steer joined WRI from the World Bank, where he served as Special Envoy for Climate Change from 2010 - 2012. From 2007 to 2010, he served as Director General at the UK Department of International Development (DFID) in London. This followed 10 years in East Asia, where he was Head of the World Bank in Vietnam and Indonesia.

In earlier years, Andrew was Director of Environment and Social Policy at the World Bank, Chief of the Bank's Country Risk Division, Chief Author of the 1992 World Development Report on Environment and Development, and taught economics at Cambridge University. He has written widely on the links between the economy and the natural environment.

Dr. Steer is a Global Agenda Trustee for the World Economic Forum, a Commissioner of the Global Commission on Adaptation, and of the Energy Transitions Commission, a member of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED), and Advisory Groups of the Bank of America and IKEA.

Andrew was educated at St Andrews University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Cambridge University. He has a PhD in international economics and finance.

He is married to Dr. Liesbet Steer and is the proud father of Charlotte and Benjamin.

## NATHANIEL STINNETT

FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL VOTER PROJECT

@NCStinn

Nathaniel Stinnett is the Founder & Executive Director of the Environmental Voter Project, a non-partisan nonprofit that uses data analytics and behavioral science to mobilize environmentalists to vote. Named one of five global "climate visionaries" by *The New York Times* in 2018, and dubbed "The Voting Guru" by *Grist* magazine, Stinnett is a frequent expert speaker on cutting-edge campaign techniques and the behavioral science behind getting people to vote. He has held a variety of senior leadership and campaign manager positions on U.S. Senate, Congressional, state, and mayoral campaigns, and he sits on the Board of Advisors for MIT's Environmental Solutions Initiative. Formerly an attorney at the international law firm DLA Piper, Stinnett holds a B.A. from Yale University and a J.D. from Boston College Law School, and he lives in Boston, MA with his wife and two daughters.

## NICOLE SYSTROM

FOUNDER, SUTRO ENERGY GROUP

Nicole Systrom, founder of Sutro Energy Group, partners with philanthropists, investors and entrepreneurs to accelerate high-impact climate and clean technology solutions.

With an extensive background in environmental science and a passion for helping entrepreneurs scale breakthrough technologies, Nicole counsels philanthropists and impact investors on how to direct mission-oriented resources toward innovative clean technologies. A valued advisor to founders and funders in clean energy, Nicole has helped channel millions of dollars into the development of technology solutions in recent years.

Nicole's passion for motivating wealth holders to support clean energy technologies means she is frequently tapped by nonprofits, foundations and family offices for her counsel on their climate-positive programs. As a board member and consultant to Prime Coalition, she helps philanthropists catalyze growth in technology startups that mitigate climate change. As an early advisor to Cyclotron Road, Nicole helped develop program and business strategies, positioning it to effectively support hard-science innovations and entrepreneurs.

In addition to Prime Coalition, she now serves on the boards of the Energy Foundation—one of the largest energy and climate philanthropies in the US—and Activate, a fellowship program forging a new path for world-changing innovators (and the successor to Cyclotron Road). Nicole is also a member of the President's Council at Ceres, a nonprofit focused on sustainability challenges.

A published thought leader on climate-positive innovation, Nicole has written about identifying gaps in the clean tech ecosystem; building philanthropic tools for investing in climate solutions; and enabling better state energy policy. To build awareness of the climate change crisis, Nicole launched the investor education series "Investing in a New Climate" with the Stanford Steyer-Taylor Center for Energy Policy and Finance in 2015.

Earlier in her career Nicole worked at TerraPass, a venture-backed startup, where she managed a project portfolio that reduced 250,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions across the U.S. Before that she was a fundraiser at the nonprofit Pacific Forest Trust, where she supported the development of methods to quantify the carbon stored in working forests.

Nicole holds a BS in Earth Systems from Stanford University and an MBA/MS in Environment and Resources from the Stanford Graduate School of Business. She lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her family and golden retriever.

## ARAME TALL

SENIOR ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE SPECIALIST, CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP,  
WORLD BANK @dr\_arametall

Arame Tall is a Senior Adaptation & Resilience Specialist in the Climate Change Group of the World Bank. Before joining the Bank in 2017, she worked for 15 years in climate adaptation and development, holding senior positions with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) and the Red cross/Red crescent Climate Centre.

Dr. Tall leads coordination of the Bank's work on Adaptation & Resilience and is the team leader for the World Bank Group's first of its kind Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience. The new plan significantly boosts support for adaptation and resilience, and also represents significantly ramped up ambition from the World Bank Group in this area.

Before joining the Bank Group, she was with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)'s Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) based in Dakar Senegal, where she managed the Regional office for Africa supporting all of Africa's 53 governments with policy guidance to mainstream adaptation and establish effective national/regional frameworks for climate services. From 2012–2015, she worked as a senior climate services scientist and champion at the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), based at ICRISAT in India, then IFPRI in Washington DC, where she spearheaded among many more achievements several programs to scale up the delivery of climate information services for millions of smallholder farmers in Africa, South Asia and Latin America. Prior to that, she was with the Red Cross International Federation where she served as regional technical adviser for West and Central Africa for several years, scaling up their on-ground capacity for effective climate-related disaster risk management.

With over 15 years of work experience at the interface of climate & society, Dr. Tall is one of the world experts on climate services, adaptation, resilience and community-based early warning systems, widely published on research at the nexus of climate science and societal benefits.

She holds a PhD from the Johns Hopkins University-SAIS in Climate Adaptation and African Studies, an MA from Columbia University's Climate & Society Program, and a BA from Smith College in Anthropology and Environmental Policy.

## NICHOLAS TEDESCO

PRESIDENT AND CEO, NATIONAL CENTER FOR FAMILY PHILANTHROPY  
@TedescoNicholas

Nicholas (Nick) Tedesco is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Center for Family Philanthropy (NCFP). NCFP provides the resources, community, and support families need to transform their values into effective giving that makes a lasting impact on the communities they serve.

Prior to joining NCFP, Nick served as a Senior Advisor in the J.P. Morgan Philanthropy Centre where he provided clients with insights and services to help meet their philanthropic goals through innovative advice, thought leadership and opportunities for learning and collaboration.

Previously, Nick served as a Relationship Manager at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where he helped launch the Giving Pledge—an effort led by Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett to encourage the world's wealthiest individuals and families to commit the majority of their wealth to philanthropy. In this role, Nick managed relationships with current and prospective members of the pledge, as well as their staff and advisors. He helped to connect global philanthropists with one another in effort to exchange knowledge and encourage collaboration.

Nick began his career in the social sector as the Deputy Director of the Children's Health Forum—a national nonprofit focused on the prevention and eradication of childhood diseases that disproportionately impact underserved communities.

Nick was named to the inaugural *Chronicle of Philanthropy* 40 Under 40 ranking in 2016. He has been quoted in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal MarketWatch*, *San Francisco Business Times* and other notable publications. He serves on the Regional Board for UNICEF USA and as a panelist for the Echoing Green Fellowship and MacArthur Foundation 100&Change Initiative.

Nick received a B.A. from Villanova University.

## ATSUKO TODA

DIRECTOR, AGRICULTURAL FINANCE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Since 2016, Atsuko Toda is serving as the Director of Agriculture Finance and Rural Infrastructure Development Department at the African Development Bank. The department is responsible for the Bank's investments in private sector agribusiness companies and development of Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones across the African Continent. Currently, there is much interest from African Governments to build their agro-industrial sectors and promote private sector development.

Atsuko joined the Africa Development Bank from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), where she has worked for close to twenty years on rural development and financing in Asia and Africa. Having held several positions in different countries of Asia, she moved to Africa, as the Country Director for Nigeria in 2012, managing a portfolio of investments in rural development, accelerating the access of farmers to new technologies, finance and markets.

Ms Toda holds a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Doshisha University, Japan; a Diploma in Developmental Studies from Cambridge University, United Kingdom; and a Masters' Degree in Public Administration from the International Christian University, Japan.

## AMALI TOWER

FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CLIMATE REFUGEES @TowerAmali

Amali Tower is the Founder and Executive Director of Climate Refugees. Amali has worked the past 15 years to promote the protection of refugees and forcibly displaced persons in a variety of contexts, including in refugee resettlement, protection, evaluation and research with the UN Refugee Agency in Kenya and Jordan, various NGOs throughout Africa, Asia, the Middle East and the US, and as a sub-contractor and consultant to the US Department of State's overseas US Refugee Admissions Program.

Amali has interviewed and resettled countless refugees, as well as worked with internally displaced persons over the years in urban and camp contexts and has strong field research and advocacy experience in human rights, humanitarian programming and conflict risk analysis.

She holds a Master of International Affairs focused in Human Rights from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, a Bachelor of Arts in International Development Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles, and an International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance from Fordham University.

## STEVE TRENT

FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CLIMATE REFUGEES @steventrent

Steve Trent is Executive Director of the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), a UK not-for-profit organisation working internationally to protect natural ecosystems and wildlife, and defend basic human rights.

Steve is an environmental advocate with over 30 years cutting-edge investigative and campaign experience. As Campaigns Director for the Environmental Investigation Agency, Steve investigated threats to oceans, forests and the ozone layer. He has been a leading advocate for policies and enforcement to eradicate the illegal wildlife trade that decimates threatened species—including elephants, rhinos, tigers and whales—and undermines entire ecosystems that communities depend upon. Trent co-founded WildAid, serving as President for over a decade and leading WildAid's pioneering conservation work in China and India. In 2000, Steve co-founded EJF and leads its strategy and programs using investigations and high-level advocacy. EJF works in 10 countries across 3 continents to conserve wildlife, oceans, forests and our global climate; defend environmental defenders and build capacity within grassroots communities; and drive consumer and industry demand for sustainable, ethical and legal products including seafood and cotton.

## TERRY VOGT

MANAGING DIRECTOR, TERRA GLOBAL @terry\_vogt

Terry Vogt is a private investor with extensive experience in Latin American projects. He is currently Managing Director of Terra Global Capital, a company facilitating the creation and financing of carbon offsets in forestry and agriculture. Prior to this he was Program Director for Conservation Finance at the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation in San Francisco. He has also worked as an international banker, and managed an international organization in the area of agriculture and sustainable rural development. Mr. Vogt has a degree from Harvard University in Latin American history and served for 4 years in the US Peace Corps as a volunteer in Northeast Brazil and as a staff member in the Amazon. He has an M.B.A. from the University of Colorado with an emphasis in Operations Research. Mr. Vogt has been an active board member of many internationally focused non-profit organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 1996, the President of Brazil, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, awarded him the Order of Rio Branco for his work in developing trade and investment between Brazil and the US.

## NAW EH HTEE WAH

COORDINATOR, CONSERVATION ALLIANCE TANAWTHARI (CAT) IN MYANMAR

Naw Eh Htee Wah is the Coordinator of Conservation Alliance Tanawthari (CAT). Founded in 2014 as a coalition of Karen community organizations, CAT aims to promote conservation of biodiversity together with people, and protect the rights of indigenous communities in Tanintharyi Region in Southern Myanmar. CAT is pursuing a complaint process with the UNDP's Accountability Mechanism regarding the Ridge to Reef project, a top-down UNDP and Global Environment Facility (GEF) backed conservation project.



## JANE WALES

VICE PRESIDENT, ASPEN INSTITUTE AND FOUNDER, GLOBAL PHILANTHROPY FORUM @janewales

Jane Wales is Vice President of the Aspen Institute and Executive Director of its Program on Philanthropy and Social Innovation (PSI). She is the founder of the Global Philanthropy Forum and its regional affiliates, and the former host of the nationally syndicated National Public Radio interview show *WorldAffairs*.

Previously, Ms. Wales served in the Clinton Administration as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director of the National Security Council. She simultaneously served as Associate Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, where her office was responsible both for advancing sustainable economic development, through science and technology cooperation, and for developing policy for securing advanced weapons materials in the former Soviet Union. In the Carter Administration, Wales served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of state.

In the philanthropic sector, Ms. Wales chaired the international security programs at the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the W. Alton Jones Foundation, and she directed the Project on World Security at the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. From 2007 to 2008, she served as acting CEO of The Elders, chaired by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and founded by Nelson Mandela. In 2008, Wales also chaired the Poverty Alleviation Track for the Clinton Global Initiative. Ms. Wales is a member of the board of directors for the Center for a New American Security and OpenCorporates, and is Chair of the Board of FSG.

## PHILIP YUN

CEO, WORLD AFFAIRS @philipwyun

Philip Yun is President and CEO of World Affairs. Previously, Mr. Yun was Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of Ploughshares Fund. Prior to joining Ploughshares Fund, he was a vice president at The Asia Foundation (2005–2011), a Pantech Scholar in Korean Studies at the Shorenstein Asia Pacific Research Center at Stanford University (2004–2005) and a vice president at the private equity firm of H&Q Asia Pacific (2001–2004).

Mr. Yun was a presidential appointee at the U.S. Department of State (1994–2001), serving as Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. During this time, he also worked as a senior advisor to two U.S. Coordinators for North Korea Policy—former Secretary of Defense William J. Perry and former Under Secretary of State Wendy Sherman. Mr. Yun was a member of a government working-group that managed U.S. policy and negotiations with North Korea under President Clinton and was part of the U.S. delegation that traveled to North Korea with Secretary of State Madeline Albright in October 2000.

Prior to government service, Mr. Yun practiced law at the firms of Pillsbury Madison & Sutro in San Francisco and Garvey Schubert & Barer in Seattle. He also was a foreign legal consultant at the firm of Shin & Kim in Seoul, Korea.

Mr. Yun's writings and commentary have appeared on CNN, The Hill, Foreign Policy.com, AP TV, Fox News, National Public Radio, NBC, *U.S. News and World Report*, and

the *Los Angeles Times*, among others. He is the co-editor of a book entitled, *North Korea and Beyond* (2006).

Mr. Yun attended Brown University (magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa) and the Columbia University School of Law. He was a Fulbright Scholar to Korea. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and member of the Board of Overseers for Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies.

# PHILANTHROPY'S RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS: A CALL TO ACTION

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14  
8:00 AM

## LARRY KRAMER

PRESIDENT AND CEO, WILLIAM AND FLORA HEWLETT FOUNDATION  
@HEWLETT\_FOUND

## MODERATOR PHILIP YUN

CEO, WORLD AFFAIRS @PHILIPWYUN

## PHILIP YUN:

Welcome to the Global Philanthropy Forum 2020. Hello, everyone. I'm Philip Yun, CEO of World Affairs. I'm so pleased to be your new host for this year's Global Philanthropy Forum or GPF, which is a long-standing project of World Affairs for us here in San Francisco. I wanted to welcome our 350 participants, all of whom are joining us virtually, beaming in from around the world, 30 countries, for what is a timely and urgent conversation on climate change. I also wanted to thank all of you here listening for your flexibility with our technical issues. We're going to get this running, but I understand that we sent a link for you if you need to contact us and access this program.

As a way to briefly set the stage, I've got these three words for all of us to keep in mind while we're together here. I want to say insight, action and purpose. These words are the touchstones for me and the staff here at World Affairs and GPF. Insight, action and purpose is what many of us yearn for in these difficult times of pandemic, social distress and social unrest, and for us here in California with the extreme wildfires and unbelievable smoke we're dealing with right now. Over the next three days, we have philanthropists and social entrepreneurs alike living in Latin America, Africa, Europe, Asia, North America. They're crafting inventive solutions to climate change, and these amazing people will give you perspectives and insights. Their ideas will set the stage for us to come up with concrete actions we can take, and by working collaboratively with each other and with commitment, we'll create, I believe, a stronger community; one that gives us meaning and purpose to continue our efforts long after this conference adjourns.

By the end of our three days here, you may very well find that an investment in battling climate change, for those of you who have not gone into this particular area at this point in your portfolios, is the ultimate big bet. One last note and before we move to our opening session, because we have a limited amount of time, I wanted to thank my predecessor, many of you who know very, very well, Jane Wales. GPF was an idea in the mind's eye of Jane some 20 years ago, and because of her driving vision and hard work and the hard work of many of you here as well joining us, GPF is now a major platform for international philanthropy. Jane, I know you're here. I know you're listening, guiding me in spirit. Thank you very much for everything that you've done for World Affairs and for supporting me personally. Now, we turn to Larry Kramer to talk about philanthropy's response to climate change.

Larry Kramer is the president of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, a leading world grant maker that supports many causes and institutions to create a better world. Larry personally has been a strong advocate for action on climate, and I think therefore is the perfect person to open this year's GPF. So Larry, thank you for joining us. Greatly appreciate it.

## LARRY KRAMER:

Well, thank you for having me. I'm really pleased and privileged to be here.

## PHILIP YUN:

You've done an incredible amount of writing on climate change. And one that specifically struck me was an article you wrote just in January 2020, and it's titled

“Philanthropy Must Stop Fiddling While the World Burns,” and given what’s going on in California, I think that’s quite apropos. I mean, it’s an amazing title, and I guess many of you can guess where we’re going on this, but before we get to that very clear message, I wanted to start out your train of thought, which I thought was quite interesting. You start out with a whole string of questions, and I think that’s kind of apropos of you being really a law professor at heart. So you ask us questions, the audience, the reader, and there are two in particular that are incredibly direct, almost startling I would say, and I would like for you to answer those two questions first to start us off.

So first, you ask this question of all foundations, not only Hewlett, but everyone, all the funders who are joining us remotely now and others who may not be, you are saying that they themselves are at risk. So why do you ask that question?

**LARRY KRAMER:**

So the starting premise is that everything that we do in philanthropy sort of rests on a foundation, and here I mean not foundation foundation, but a base that presupposes some things about both the existence of a kind of stable democratic government and the existence of a physical environment that makes it possible to make long-term investments in all the things we do, and those things are themselves at risk because of this problem. So if that foundation goes away, everything else we’re trying to do, whatever it is, becomes both impossible and will get undone, and I just wanted to start with that point because I think people really need to understand and accept it.

**PHILIP YUN:**

So the second question you asked, which was as a follow-up to the first, and I’ll just start, and then you can finish it and then continue to talk about that. You ask a fundamental question, and then you get to the heart, what you say is really the heart of the matter for all of us to be thinking about, and it’s what do foundation officers and directors believe will happen when?

**LARRY KRAMER:**

And then I list what are the well accepted consequences of climate change, the kind of middle of the road view, not the extreme alarmist view, but what we’re seeing happening now. So if you look around the world now, we’re already seeing the beginnings of the droughts and the famines and the fires and the heat waves and the ocean rise, and there’s so many different things and they come at us in news stories kind of one by one. Of, course they’re driving things like migration. The Syrian migration was begun by a drought, and then the economic consequences of dealing with all those things. So what I wanted to say to people is think about each of those things. Now imagine them all happening all at once in ways that are orders of magnitude larger and more frequent than what we’re experiencing today.

So what do you think happens? I mean, that’s a rhetorical question because, of course, what happens is it’s not that humanity becomes extinct, but it is that the social and political and economic systems will not be able to withstand those kinds of pressures. If you just think about what Syria did to Europe and global politics, that’s something like six million people. What do you think happens when that number becomes 200 or 300 million people all moving at once as nations try to protect their borders, and

then you get wars, the logical consequences, which are staring us in the face and not that distant in the future. So it’s really a rhetorical follow-up to that first point; the foundations on which everything rests are at risk because of this problem. We have a chance to address it now, before those things happen, but the window is closing. So that’s what I meant by we’re fiddling while the world literally is beginning to burn.

**PHILIP YUN:**

So let’s get to really what the thrust of your message in this article is and the message that you have been using all the way through in your conversations with people about climate change, it sets the stage for this ultimate sort of point, which is slightly different from saying that climate change is important. I mean, we do talk about that, and you’ve talked about it, but instead it’s about what foundations are actually doing with their resources, right? Why don’t you talk a little bit about that as well?

**LARRY KRAMER:**

Sure. So I want to preface it with two points. One is I think in philanthropy, we sometimes over-exaggerate what we can do in the world. I mean, there are problems around which we can play at the margins, but we’re not fundamentally the essential institution that’s going to solve those problems. Climate is not one of those. What’s clear is that there was a pivotal role for philanthropy to play, and that if it does not play that role, the chances of addressing climate are significantly reduced. Okay, so that’s point one, and then point two is philanthropy is just not playing that role. The resources from philanthropy and foundations in particular that are going to address this problem are minuscule, are considerably smaller than they need to be and ought to be for a problem that is as foundational as this one is. So it’s really to say it’s not just that climate change is important; it’s that philanthropy has a pivotal role to play, and we’re not playing, and we need to step in and do that.

**PHILIP YUN:**

You were saying 3 percent. I think we cited before it was like 2 percent of money. 3 percent of money. You’re saying that you feel like we’ve got to be spending a lot more for what we need to be doing, right?

**LARRY KRAMER:**

Yes, and I actually think it is probably closer to 2 percent. I didn’t want to get into fights with people about being inaccurate, so I went for 3 percent, which in the estimates is at the higher end, but we’ve done a lot more research since, and we think it’s about 2 percent of both philanthropic philanthropy and overall philanthropy, if you also include individuals.

**PHILIP YUN:**

So what you’re basically saying is in this context of, and you’re not exaggerating in the sense of this is an existential issue that we’ve got. We’re seeing the ramifications of it absolutely right now. So your direct call to action, let’s do something, and then it becomes a matter of how. It doesn’t seem that you’re arguing that all foundations should drop what they’re doing, switch all their funding to climate change, are you?



**LARRY KRAMER:**

No. No, not at all. I mean, that would also be foolish, right? The other things that we work on are important. We're trying to save the world for a world that we need to preserve also, so that it's there when we do. I don't think anybody should necessarily drop all the things that they're doing, but they need to make space to help out on this problem as well, because this problem is those problems. Solving this problem is essential to whatever goals they're trying to achieve in all the other areas in which they're working.

**PHILIP YUN:**

But so let me ask you, are you getting questions from people when you start making this call and it's very firm and it's very outspoken in many ways, and given your perch being at the Hewlett Foundation, are people asking you the question, "So why aren't you spending more?" And then are you even thinking about spending down then for something like this?

**LARRY KRAMER:**

I get that question quite a bit, and I have a bunch of answers to that. One is I want to model what I'm suggesting other people should do. I don't think the Hewlett Foundation should drop all the other things it works on any more than I think anybody else should, right? Those things are important, and we need to continue making progress on them, and we would not want to derail that. It's just that we don't have to while we also address this problem. My second answer of course is Hewlett has been the largest global funder of climate since at least 2007. We put anywhere from \$120 to \$130 million each year into the problem. So other funders, when they get into that ballpark, can begin to talk to us about the need to spend more, right? It's 25 percent to 30 percent of our total grant making. If other funders are in that ballpark, then I'm happy to entertain criticisms about us needing to spend more.

But the truth is we could spend a lot more. The amount of money that's needed is a lot more than Hewlett itself can spend alone, so it doesn't make sense to me to say, "Hewlett, derail all the other things you're doing so that you can spend more and not make a significant difference in the climate problem, but undermine all the other things that you're working on." So instead, what I've tried to do and what we have tried to do is to say to other funders, we need all of you. We need orders of magnitude, more funding in order to do this, because there are multiple routes to solving this problem. We can't be sure which one will work. We need to cover a lot of bases and we can't possibly cover all those bases with the amount of resources that we have now. So we need you all to step in to a meaningful extent, but not to the extent that you have to surrender the other work that you're doing, just like we're doing. That's really the way I think about this.

**PHILIP YUN:**

So there are a couple of elements that I wanted to ask you about. You talked about how philanthropy can do certain things really well and certain things that it can't. It seems to me that there is more than just money involved in this as well. Money is one thing. Giving people facts is one thing, but getting people to act as another,

and I know that you are heavily involved in this Climate Leadership Initiative. That's a collaboration that is trying to get all these different groups of people to work together. Can you talk a little bit about that specifically and your strategy related to that?

**LARRY KRAMER:**

One point before I come to the Climate Leadership Initiative or CLI. So what we need in addition to resources is human capital, right? We need the creativity and the ability to cover lots of ground that come from having lots and lots of different people engaged in the problem while collaborating with each other. It's really the uniqueness of collaboration is the ability to get coordination, but also the individual creativity and the opportunities to cover many different bases that come from having lots and lots of different people working on a problem, so that's what we need..

**PHILIP YUN:**

As a follow-up to that, is it only philanthropy? Part of what we're talking about here with what we call a wicked problem, government had their role, private sector had their role. Do you believe in collaboration among all three?

**LARRY KRAMER:**

Sure, and the biggest part, the reason philanthropy has such a critical role to play here is that that's something that we really can contribute to, right? We have the ability. The unaccountability that we have allows us to step outside of a lot of the interests and short-termism that limits these other organizations and help put them in the position where we can act. And the resources in both private markets and governments vastly outstrip what philanthropy has. Our pivotal role though is in enabling that, and we need more philanthropic resources in order to enable that fully, so you can think of it as a kind of cascading growth in the resources and opportunities and things that can be covered globally.

**PHILIP YUN:**

So let's go then to the Climate Leadership Initiative. Who's involved, what does it do, and clearly this is an example of a collaboration that you're talking about, and then there's the larger strategy in this?

**LARRY KRAMER:**

Yeah, sort of. The Climate Leadership Initiative is actually a little different than that. When we realized that we needed to bring a lot more resources in, and we thought about why there was so little, part of it was not full recognition of the significance of the problem, but a lot of it is it just seems like such a big problem. People are like, "I don't even know where to start in doing this. I can't get my arms around this," so I'm going to focus on something where I believe I can actually make a difference where I understand what it is that I need to do. So six funders got together, and we stood up the CLI as an independent organization to essentially help recruit new funders and advise them on where they can start. So the organization itself is really a clearinghouse for information and advice.

So if you're a new funder, it's like, "I don't even know where to start." CLI will work with you. They will help you understand, here are the kinds of options that are there. Here are the kinds of things that are happening and the kinds of things that aren't, and work with you to find the place within this ecosystem that makes the most sense to you where you can make a difference. So it's a way of getting funders up the kind of scale, the kind of ladder to scale much more quickly, because we really don't have time for people to take eight to 10 years to figure out what they want to do on this problem.

**PHILIP YUN:**

We've got to talk about what's going on right now. We have a pandemic, COVID-19. We have incredible economic distress. We have Black Lives Matter, social unrest, all the things that are breaking out all over here in the United States. Have these events of the last several months changed your thinking or perhaps refine your thinking on specifically climate change or generally your approach?

**LARRY KRAMER:**

Yeah. I keep looking to the side, because I'm looking at my window, which is of course covered in soot. I'm going to have to go wash it at some point here, but I figured we'll wait for the worst of it to pass before we start. So what I would say is, of course, how could it not, and in multiple, multiple ways. I have a fear that grows out of this and a hope that grows out of this. The fear, of course, is that this problem, climate, is a problem, as I said, for all of the things that people care about, all those other things. Wealth inequality, systemic racism. All of them are going to be vastly exacerbated by the pressures when they come if we don't get this problem under control.

Again, you can think of climate, if I drop a ball it's going to take some time until it hits the ground. We can't wait until the ball hits the ground to work on this problem. We're dropping the ball literally right now, so we need people to work on it precisely because of all the kinds of concerns that have emerged under COVID. I worry about the distraction from that.

On the other hand, I think the opportunity or the hope is that, especially as awful as it is to see what's going on, that people may begin to wake up and realize, "Whoa, this is already happening, and whoa, it's going to get so much worse." I look at my daughter, right? And I think she's 20, and what is her life going to be like? What are her kids' lives going to be like? If they're as awful as they are likely to be, that is going to be our fault. It is the fault of this generation that has the opportunity to solve this problem that is choosing not to for reasons that are unfathomable to me. And that's again, just behind that title, fiddling while the world is literally burning.

**PHILIP YUN:**

Two quick questions here in the time that we have remaining. I mean, I have a 16-year-old daughter as well, who is beside herself over everything that's going on, and I think given Black Lives Matter and the social unrest, where does advocacy in your mind fit in this, because I know this is something that you think is very important. Where is advocacy? Is it important, not important? What's your reaction to that?

**LARRY KRAMER:**

Well, as a lead in, I would know part of the claim here is these are not zero-sum choices. I'm not saying you can't work on these other things because you have to work on climate. I would say the opposite. You have to work on all these things, and we do have the resources for it if we deploy them intelligently, so that's one. Advocacy, of course, is pivotal, particularly in the United States. I mean, this is a global problem, so the role of advocacy differs depending on where you are. You're going to advocate differently in China than you do in India, than you're doing in the United States, than you're doing in Brazil, than you do in Europe and so on.

But what we're fundamentally talking about is not things that philanthropy is going to do, it's ways in which philanthropy can help other institutions, in particular, the private sector and governments, do the things that they need to do to address that. That's fundamentally an advocacy problem. We have the research. We need more. We have most of the solutions. We need more. With respect to the solutions we have, we need to begin to get them adopted and implemented. With respect to the solutions that we don't, we need to get investment in the research and the development for all of those things, so all of that entails a mix of advocacy and other kinds of technical support that we can provide.

**PHILIP YUN:**

At the end of all of these, I always ask what are two takeaways. If nothing else sinks in, what are the two takeaways that you want to leave with our listeners?

**LARRY KRAMER:**

One, absolute necessity to get involved, to do something meaningful in this space and to clear out sufficient resources to do that. And number two is to do that intelligently. So what we do not need is people reading a book and saying, "Oh, it's the food that is the problem, so I'm going to go do some weird thing off by myself." This is what CLI is there for. Talk to the people who have been working on this for a long time to understand and find out where the biggest needs are and where you can help as part of the larger collaborative.

**PHILIP YUN:**

Okay. So unfortunately we've come to the end of our time. Larry, thank you so much for kicking this off.

**LARRY KRAMER:**

No, thank you for giving me the chance.

**PHILIP YUN:**

This has been really great. Greatly appreciated. And so, we transition. Welcome, everyone. Our next session is the complex challenge related to climate change and why it matters. We have Paul Hawken and a familiar face at GPF will also be there, Jane Wales, for this very important conversation. I'm very much looking forward to that conversation as well. It's going to begin at 8:30. So with that, everyone, thank you very much. Have an incredibly productive three days, and I look forward to talking with all of you during the conference. Thank you.

# THE COMPLEX CHALLENGE AND WHY IT MATTERS

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14  
8:30 AM

## PAUL HAWKEN

FOUNDER AND AUTHOR, PROJECT DRAWDOWN @PAULHAWKEN

## MODERATOR JANE WALES

VICE PRESIDENT, ASPEN INSTITUTE AND FOUNDER, GLOBAL PHILANTHROPY FORUM @JANEWALES

## JANE WALES:

Good morning. I'm delighted to be here with Paul Hawken at the Global Philanthropy Forum 2020 conference. I should note that Paul spoke at the first ever Global Philanthropy Forum conference in March of 2002. So, it's definitely time for a reunion. Most folks know Paul as the founder of Hawken & Smith, one of the original social businesses, but he's the author of no fewer than, is it seven books or eight books?

## PAUL HAWKEN:

Eight.

## JANE WALES:

Eight, and he's in the midst of another. But I have to say my favorite, just based on the title is called, *Blessed Unrest: How the Largest Movement in the World Came into Being and No One Saw it Coming*. But we're going to talk a little bit more about Drawdown just to set the stage for a minute, Paul. Here we are, we're both in Northern California right now, where wildfires are burning as they are in Oregon perhaps not caused by climate change but greatly exacerbated by the drying and heating that is fueling the spread of the wildfires. So that's one shock we're dealing with.

And the second of course is the global pandemic, COVID-19. And climate scientists have been telling us for a long time that this won't be the only pandemic. That there will be others. That global warming really affects the shape and the spread of infectious diseases. And then finally, I think the most insidious of the shocks that we're feeling, Paul, right now is the disproportionate effects, health effects and economic effects on people of color, of both the wildfires and COVID-19. And I know that Paul, you started as a child, you were an environmentalist as a teenager, and you were a civil rights advocate. This combination must be particularly hard on you, as it is hard on our country. So why are you so positive?

## PAUL HAWKEN:

Positive. I got what Larry Kramer said, really, which is I'm not interested in hope, I'm interested in courage and action. Hope is just the pretty face of fear. I mean, every hope depends on a fear. And I think what we need to be right now is fearless, as opposed to hopeful, which is a little anemic in a way. I'm hopeful, why? We can basically look at everything that's happening realistically and what I appreciate, and this sounds odd about COVID-19, is that it just pulled the curtain away from the extraordinary injustices, extraordinary dysfunction, the extraordinary impact that our industrial systems have been having on the world for quite a long time. And when people say we'll go back to normal, which we realized that actually we were in abnormal for a long, long time and adjusted to it and became accustomed to it. And it wasn't normal at all.

And so COVID has really revealed that, as has the George Floyd assassination of course. It also then brought forth 1619, it brought forth this extraordinary legacy of racism and cruelty, frankly. For me as a civil rights worker having marched on Montgomery, worked as press coordinator for that when I was a youngin'; I really thought with the voting rights act and so forth, that in a sense an era had changed. And I think in some small way it had, but I thought it had changed in a much greater

way than it really did. And I feel like what happened with Black Lives Matter is that, I'll just speak for myself, I said, "God, racism is absolutely endemic to me." I mean, it's easier to say white privilege but in a deeper sense I feel like that's also been a blessing. George Floyd I think we'll look back on as a martyr, in the Christian or the religious sense, of somebody whose death actually created real change—and not to say only his death.

And so I see this moment as a teachable moment as opposed to, "God we're really screwed," because so much is coming forward. At the same time, I do recommend everyone see *Social Dilemma*, it's on Netflix, Jeff Orlowski's new film about social media. And if you have any question about why it's becoming so polarized and so ridiculous in terms of the discourse in the world, see *Social Dilemma*. It's a beautifully, beautifully well done film with Tristan Harris and others. Talking about, in a sense, that we've created another extractive industry, but this time it's extracting our brain, our innocence, our children and using it against us in a way that it was never designed to.

I'm looking at this smoke outside too... And when a teenager I lived in Sierra so I used to fight fires, but these fires are different. We never fought fires like this, we didn't have the wind. And I think not only is it dryness but it is the wind itself. If we just didn't have those kinds of winds at the same time, and so forth. So we are in a new era, there's no question about that.

#### JANE WALES:

But there are solutions, right? There are solutions to racial injustice and there are solutions to climate change. And what's been striking to me, is that in your book, *Drawdown*, which I'm sure all our viewers have read, because it's got a hundred fascinating ways not to mitigate climate change but to reverse it. These are solutions that are already at hand. Perhaps provide an example that individuals can act on, as well as things that take government and the private sector, etc.

#### PAUL HAWKEN:

You've really hit a nail on its head with that question, because the way we see climate and reversing global warming is the polarity of government and individuals. Then you have this argument, well, individuals really can't do much but they can do something but it doesn't really accumulate to much. And the governments are slow and corrupt in many cases and go through electoral cycles that makes them unwilling to commit to really brave things. And so you look on both sides. I feel like one of the things that we don't understand is that yes, it is individual, but we don't really look at agency because we have to look at the individual in context, not as an individual. Of course it's an individual, it's a person. But of course one of the great diseases that we have is to think that we are individuals, that we're separate from each other, from nature and so forth. And the climate crisis doesn't cause injustice, it actually was created by injustice. It's a figure-ground shift.

So when we look at solutions, we have a lot of them in *Drawdown* and the new book I'm doing, *Regeneration*, has more. But what it does is talk about your question, what to do. And if we actually after this go outside, go to somewhere and ask people, "What are you doing about climate change?" And they'll go, "What are you talking about?" I talk to any essential worker and they're going, "Oh well," and then ask

people who care, presumably many all of your listeners, but actually just people caring and say, "Do you know what to do?" And people say, "Well, I should probably change my diet", or, "If I could afford an electric car" or, "I should hang my clothes up and not use the dryer." I mean, it's just such wimpy things, all true, and that's where we are right now.

99 percent of the world is disengaged. So when we asked the question about what individuals can do, we have to ask a deeper question, which is why don't they want to do it at all? And that really goes back to the way we've communicated climate. We've communicated in such a way that actually turns people off. It's like what Sir Kenneth Robinson talked about, we educate children to be professors, and so their bodies are carrying their head. What can we do that actually engages human beings, the human population? And we do that when we address current human needs, not future existential threats. Because unless we're going to where people live and what they need now today, in terms of their food deserts, food apartheid, health, education, security. Unless we go there, and I think many of the people participating are doing that by the way, then we're going to be a small, tiny minority movement in the world watching it go to flame.

So the most interesting thing that individuals can do actually is, in 37 states in the United States, they can do with a phone call or online, they can change all of their electricity to renewable energy. Boom, within an hour. And that's the biggest impact that a business or a household can have. Now if you're a renter and so forth, it can become problematic in terms of the building. But for anybody who has control over the utility, that's the first, the most important thing you could do today.

#### JANE WALES:

You know, when you talk about what we need now, if Donald Trump were in this conference, he'd say, what we need now is jobs, right?

#### PAUL HAWKEN:

Yep.

#### JANE WALES:

And so how might addressing or reversing warming change the labor market?

#### PAUL HAWKEN:

Well, such an interesting question. After *Drawdown* was published what we did was map, modeled and measured the hundred most substantive solutions to reversing global warming. And we also named the goal. Let's not mitigate, as you said, let's not fight it, let's not tackle it, not leaving net zero. We need to actually bring the carbon back home and reverse it. No other goal makes sense first of all. And the bigger the goal is, the more outrageous the goal, the more innovation and creativity comes out and emerges. When you have a goal that's doable, it tends to suppress creativity.

I was in London and I was invited to address the Commonwealth of Nations and the 52 high commissioners. And I was talking about it, and then in Q&A, Q&A is always where you learn something when you're a speaker. You never learn anything when

your mouth is open. And the questions were fascinating. And what I took away from the questions as I walked away was that these were the high commissioners and they represented every ministerial in their country, finance, defense, housing, transport, agriculture, education, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. And they thought that greenhouse gases belonged in the portfolio of the environmental minister. Of course. But not theirs.

The reason I started thinking about *Regeneration* then was the subtitle of the book was going to be, *How to Create 1 Billion Jobs*. Because basically the solutions to climate change actually generate an incredible amount of jobs because what we have right now is an economy that's stealing the future. It's stealing it, and we're calling it GDP. And the idea that we can't have an economy that heals the future, that invests in the future, that creates natural capital, that reforestation, completely reverses this degenerative spiral that we're in, is simply a question of attitude and direction.

#### JANE WALES:

The reason I asked about connection to jobs, is when you go through the book and you take a look at some of the most interesting solutions, each of them achieves another goal at the same time. You don't even need to care about climate or understand the issue of climate, or be focused on the issue of climate, to want to, for example, raise the status of women and girls, or address food security. So say something about the benefits, and take an example or two, and say something about the benefits other than reversing global warming that can come from many of the solutions contained in the book.

#### PAUL HAWKEN:

A point so well taken and a point we tried to make, which is they have these cascading benefits. And I mean, just say that educating girls is a solution to global warming is true, but it's also almost reductionist. There's a thousand reasons to do that, besides that. And so our solutions really will have uptake when people understand that they benefit personally, their families, their communities, their farms, their cities, their companies, when they benefit from them. And this is the thing that's sort of been hidden or occluded, as we talk about climate solutions, as if we're going to fix it. We're going to fix it, this is the solution. And people feel left out. They feel excluded. But the fact is you look at the reuptake of regenerative agriculture in this country and in Australia, for example, and other countries and so forth.

With all due respect, I don't know a single farmer who's doing it because of climate. I don't know one. In fact I know several who are doing it very, very well, who actually think climate change isn't even happening, but they're doing it because they have come to that point where they realize the health of their soil is the health of their family, their farm. They're third or fourth generation and they're just about ready to lose the farm and they've hit the wall. And that wall was that they turned the soil to dirt and that dirt now is cutting back the soil and it can retain more water. It's more productive, it's more nutrient dense. They're benefiting from it, their debt is going down. Their cost is going down. Their profits are going up. That's why they do it. And so pretty much every single solution to climate change and global warming actually has these benefits.

I think that the climate movement again, has sort of been siloed and seen itself as like, "oh, this is a climate solution." But how about solving people's problems? How about helping them? How about people seeing this as something that benefits them and benefits their children and their future and their wellbeing and so forth. Because that is really where we're going to get the kind of community and global uptake of people wanting to, in a sense, benefit the future in terms of climate change. But they has to be about their current human needs, and not sort of a top-down elitist approach. People are going, "Yeah, but what about me? What about my family? What about the fact that ..." And that's where the solutions get really quite extraordinary.

#### JANE WALES:

Paul, I've always been struck by this in you, and that is that you understand the science, right? But you also understand the psychology and you understand the politics of large issues, hence the book about the movement no one saw coming. A lot of people feel that in the face of the pandemic, in the face of these fires, in the face of racial injustice, that when we come back, when we get to the other side of those three issues, it's unlikely that we'd go back to status quo empty. Individuals would start to rethink their relationship to the larger diverse society, that we might rethink the structure of our economy, or re-imagine the nature of our democratic government. Is this likely to be part of that? In other words, will we be rethinking, are we rethinking our individual relationship to the environment, to the natural environment? Is this a moment?

#### PAUL HAWKEN:

Well, we could be. That's possible. Most people live in the cities now and they're cut off from their natural environment. They don't really participate, they don't have that experience. And so that is the danger. Nature and life has become an abstraction, complete abstraction. They're looking at screens all day long. And so at the same time, the possibility is simply social breakdown. In other words, as the stressors become greater, like we're seeing in Washington, Oregon and California. Nobody in Talent, Oregon, whose town got burned to the ground is thinking about climate change today. They're thinking about clothing. And so we act differently when we're under extreme duress and threat. And so what Larry talked about in terms of shifting emphasis, what Ellen Dorsey has talked about, the Wallace Global Fund, is not only a shift in emphasis, but start to spend down philanthropy.

If we're not spending down our endowments, then what are we waiting for? And as Larry pointed out, those endowments will not be coming back to us in terms of growth or dividends and so forth, unless we actually do start to do that. What we do now is we're communicating to people that unless you do this, we're going to be screwed. Is that an effective way to communicate? I don't think so. Now, scientifically, absolutely that's true, but it's a bad bedside manner I can tell you that. It's not going to create healing. And we have to understand, and I'll go back to this thing, regeneration. Regenerating the world doesn't mean just farms. It means cities. It means Kibera in Nairobi. It means all levels of social interaction.

The main cause of climate change is a profound disconnection from each other, from us and nature and habitat fragmentation, what we've done to nature, and we've



disconnected nature to itself actually. And so what we're talking about is stitching back together these broken strands of disconnection. And those connections bring us alive. They bring us wonder, they bring us joy, and they bring us awe. And that really is what regeneration is about. The idea that somehow it's a hair shirt that we have to wear in order to stop global warming, is upside down backwards, and it will never take and it won't work. And that's why I think I'm doing the second book to present to people, the idea that there could be no better life purpose than regenerating the world, which then regenerates the atmosphere, because that's the relationship between the biosphere and the atmosphere is what we're talking about.

#### JANE WALES:

Thank you for pointing to the issue of disconnection. Some people call those connections social capital, and talk about the importance of social capital to a vibrant democracy. And I would add the Larry Kramer, CEO of the Hewlett foundation, who spoke before us, noted that the two existential dangers in his mind are climate change and the loss of our democracy. He argues that if we lack a democracy, we can't solve any of the problems before us. If we have our democracy, well, we just might.

#### PAUL HAWKEN:

Yes. And I would suggest that everybody read the *Politics Industry* by Michael Porter and Katherine Gehl, because why is it that there's a 50 percent of approval rating for Congress every year, 50 percent of people approve of Congress, and 90 percent of Congress people are reelected. There is a politics industry that absolutely perverts democracy and the will of the people in this country. And so we've got to understand that as well. We have to look at these systems. Politics is a system, it's a dysfunctional system, even in a democracy and so forth. Every single industry in this country is degenerative. It actually is basically stealing the future and so forth. I mean, the second most polluting industry in the world is what? Clothing. After fossil fuels. The most harmful industry to our children is the food system, the food industry.

Pepsi-Cola has 35,000 trucks that go out every day. It's the biggest trucking fleet in the world by far, bigger than DHL and FedEx and UPS and the post office. And 90 plus percent of what's on that truck is Pepsi-Cola, Mountain Dew, Doritos, Tropicana, Gatorade, 7-Up. Junk food basically, that's killing our children, causing obesity, type two diabetes, hypertension, et cetera. And so our systems themselves are all degenerative. And so rather than just looking at solutions, we also have to look at the entirety of a system. And what does it mean to localize food production, which has happened much more because of COVID-19 interestingly. But what does it mean to have a clothing industry or business that actually respects people?

It's so interesting, Jane, that in 1800 in these textile mills in England, if you actually look at what people were paid in real dollars at that time. They paid a penny an hour, but it's 34 cents an hour. That's what they're being paid in 1800. This is 2020. The average pay workers get in the garment industry is 34 cents an hour. It hasn't changed in over 220 years. These are causes of global warming. They're not like separate, oh we have to deal as a social issue. Of course it's a social issue, but the fact we have to take away our blinders and say, "Okay, these are the solutions."

What can individuals do? Stop buying so many clothes. Americans buy 70 to 90 garments a year, one every five days. Really? And most of it sits in the closet where clothes go to die. And people are afraid to be seen in something that's sort of out. Like, oh my God, it's out of fashion. That was last year. The expansive possibility in what we have to do, shouldn't depress us or be overwhelming so much, as to me it's about possibility. And the possibilities are extraordinary.

#### JANE WALES:

You're making me feel so good about wearing a jacket I got at a consignment store right now.

#### PAUL HAWKEN:

There you go.

#### JANE WALES:

Absolutely, the solutions involve all three sectors, right? The public, private, and the social sector, the citizen sector. And one of the things we are seeing is the sort of re-imagination of capitalism as well. I see you as part of it, having built a social business before any of us knew what a social business was, with Smith and Hawken. Are you seeing kind of a new level of responsibility on the part of the private sector as they move forward and see themselves, not just as possibly a part of the problem, but invariably they're part of the solution?

#### PAUL HAWKEN:

Yes, absolutely. In climate week, the CEO of one of the three largest companies in the world by revenue and employees, is giving a speech that I wrote. And that speech says, "Today, I commit 'blank' to being a regenerative company." And then what it means to be regenerative, in terms of restoration, renewal, the social contract, et cetera. CEOs are people, they have children, and they see the world too. They're not stupid. They didn't get there because they were stupid. They're really brilliant people. And they're seeing that tension between the purpose of their internal capital, to grow it, to increase it so forth, and where the world is going. And so I think we're seeing, you see it at Danone, you see it at so many companies, how really extraordinary men and women are saying, "No, we've got to shift. It's time to pivot."

I think you're going to see it at Nestle with Mark Schneider. I think you're going to see it in many places where they haven't maybe said anything yet, but I can tell you incipiently, there is a really huge shift. You're seeing it in terms of plastic. The most interesting plastic initiatives in the world are coming from the big users of plastic. They know it's a dead end. They can't use plastic as manufactured today anymore. You're seeing Kodak come up with extraordinary processes in terms of taking any polymer and transmuting it in such a way chemically so that it can make it any other polymer. So it's beyond recycling and sorting.

You are seeing this, but at the same time, I think we also have to acknowledge and honor, as you're seeing this kind of coming up like rain in the spring, or you see the first grass coming up, you're seeing all these micro businesses, small businesses addressing human need in a way big business can't. And in a way that produces much healthier food.

I was at a conference last year in Vancouver, Ecocity. And I can't remember the question, but I remember what I said. And there's so much talk about cities committing to renewable energy, which is fantastic of course. I said, but if the city isn't committed to renewable food, a term I'd never used before, by the way, it just came out of my mouth. But I thought about how if our food system isn't renewable, we better look at that one too. So you're seeing that from Leah Penniman in Grafton at Soul Fire Farm, treating African-American farmers, training them and then finding land for them.

You're seeing this upwelling across America of the Milpa gardens, from Bruce Kerns in Nebraska, who'll give you seeds for a whole acre free, and you cross drill it and it produces 30 different vegetables and fruits. And then you just let the neighbors or the food banks or the churches, or the homeless come in and pick whatever they want. It's like a big Easter egg hunt, for squash and berries and greens and so forth. And his goal is to double the amount of vegetables in the United States, but make them available locally instead of just 40 percent of them coming from California. So you're seeing these beautiful imaginative ways in which people are participating in re-imagining all of the systems that are, as I mentioned earlier, degenerative.

**JANE WALES:**

Thank you so much, Paul Hawken. As it was a pleasure to hear from you at the first global philanthropy forum, it's really a joy to hear from you now. And knowing that you are pursuing this work and you're educating us, and in fact, empowering us or urging us to use our own power to make a difference.

**PAUL HAWKEN:**

Thank you Jane. And thank you so much. I've been listening to your voice for 22 years, you're so familiar with the World Affairs Council. I'm not an expert, but I think there are some experts, Bill McKibben and Hal Harvey are coming on, but every climate expert has imposter syndrome. It's impossible for anybody to understand the intricate complexity of this relationship between the biosphere and the atmosphere, but that is also a source of wonder and awe. And this is such an extraordinary, beautiful planet that we live on. And so I just want to acknowledge you. Thank you for inviting me. Thank you for being here with me and thank you for your voice always.

**JANE WALES:**

And thank you, Paul, and thank you to Philip Yun for this extraordinary conference, and to Meghan and Claire for all the work they've done on it, and Carla. And we'll turn over to the next panel. Thank you.

**PAUL HAWKEN:**

Thank you, Jane.

# BUILDING INCLUSIVE GREEN ECONOMIES

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14  
9:10 AM

## CATHERINE COLEMAN FLOWERS

DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER, CENTER FOR RURAL ENTERPRISE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

## MODERATOR TERRY VOGT

MANAGING DIRECTOR, TERRA GLOBAL @TERRY\_VOGT

## TERRY VOGT:

Good morning to everybody. I'm Terry Vogt. I'm very pleased to be here this morning with Catherine Coleman Flowers. Catherine is the director and founder of the Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice. And she is a native Alabamian who has had a fabulous and interesting life. Among other things she's proudest, she tells me, of being a mother and a grandmother and of her recent work with Duke University's Franklin Humanities Institute. Her work as the rural development manager at the Equal Justice Initiative is fundamentally one of the most, I think, interesting and important types of work we have in the rural and urban United States today. Catherine, how are you?

## CATHERINE FLOWERS:

Thank you. It's a pleasure to be here. I think at this particular moment, for us to have this discussion, is a moment in time where we can actually bring about the change that we'd like to see. So I'm really looking forward to having this discussion and hopefully inspiring some action for those of us that are watching.

## TERRY VOGT:

It seems to me that you've been an activist all your life, even before you probably didn't know what the term was because you've just written a wonderful book called *Waste*, and I'll let you tell the full title of it. But in *Waste* you talk about even as a very young girl being essentially an actor in change.

## CATHERINE FLOWERS:

Yes, it was kind of hard to not be a part of what was going on at the time because my parents were activists. I grew up in Lowndes County, Alabama, which is between Selma and Montgomery. I was born in Birmingham and so, like Forrest Gump, I was like at all these different locations and times when historical events were taking place. In Birmingham, when the children were involved in fighting for social change there. And then of course, Lowndes County with the Lowndes County Freedom Organization in which was the original Black Panther Party. It was a political organization, which is why voting is so important. I characterize my parents as the jailhouse lawyers of their community and everybody came to them to ask for help. And you know how a lot of times we don't know we're picking up things from our parents. It's kind of like osmosis and before I knew it, I was doing things that I never thought that I would still be doing at this point in my life.

## TERRY VOGT:

Yeah. And then at a relatively early age, you were plucked out of rural Alabama. And again, in your remarks, you mentioned that Lowndes County is smack dab between Montgomery and Selma.

## CATHERINE FLOWERS:

Yes it is.

**TERRY VOGT:**

And I don't know the stats in terms of economics, but I imagine it must be on the lower ten percent in terms of per capita income in the United States in terms of a county.

**CATHERINE FLOWERS:**

I'm sure it is. I don't know the stats, but I know it's one of the poorest counties in the US and one of the poorest in the state of Alabama.

**TERRY VOGT:**

Yeah. But then while you were in high school, you were sort of plucked out of this rural area and you ended up in the capital of the United States with a family with great connections, who took you in and made you their daughter.

**CATHERINE FLOWERS:**

Yes. I was a Robert Kennedy Youth Fellow. I'd actually been introduced by the Robert Kennedy Memorial Foundation after being invited to speak on a local television show. And I wrote poetry back then and I was a high school student and I talked about my school and what was going on there. And there was a woman in the audience who was affiliated with the American Friends Service Committee who asked me to write about my, they asked me to write about my school and what was going on there. She was the editor of a newsletter. And through that, I was connected to people connected to the Robert Kennedy Memorial Foundation and was offered a fellowship. I like to say that woman ended up being Penny Weaver, who's now retired, but one of the founders and senior vice presidents at one point of the Southern Poverty Law Center. So that was how I got introduced to the Hackett family and I still have a relationship with them.

**TERRY VOGT:**

Yeah, that's really great. We were talking before we went on the air about how important it is to have these relationships that give you a base and help you grow. And you were very fortunate in that I think. But let's go on to this, the way things occurred in your life, in the sense that you note that you realized that Lowndes County actually has tropical diseases that the state and county officials didn't really even know existed. And that fact is one of the things that brought you into the whole area of sanitation and waste and of health related, related to that.

**CATHERINE FLOWERS:**

Yes, well, actually, when I think back to when I move back to the area, I was the economic development coordinator for the county, and people were always making comments on the state level about the only reason to go to Lowndes County was to go through it to get to Selma or to get to Montgomery. And I just realized that Lowndes County had been kind of neglected for many years.

And then I found out that people were being arrested for not having access to sanitation and I was told that it was because it was a personal feeling. It wasn't a personal feeling, because they couldn't afford it and then there were some ecological

factors that people have no control over. And then I started seeing this raw sewage on the ground and people started telling me about some of the illnesses that they were having. I had my own experience when I was bitten by mosquitoes and broke out in a rash. My doctors did all the tests and nothing was wrong, but clearly I had this rash on my body that lasted for a very long time.

And I saw an op-ed piece that was written in *The New York Times* by Dr. Peter Hotez. And he was the founding dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine. I wrote to him, I just Googled him and got his email address, wrote to him and told him about what I saw and that's how we ended up doing the parasite study. I asked him if it was possible that there are tropical diseases or diseases that American doctors are not looking for because they do not anticipate this being a problem in the United States with raw sewage on the ground. And we answered it when we did the study.

**TERRY VOGT:**

So you sort have become the queen of affluence in the best sense of those words. And could you tell people, what is it, how much does it cost to install a decent septic system in Lowndes County, Alabama? And how long is it going to last?

**CATHERINE FLOWERS:**

Well, it really depends, there's no template for the type of system that a person would need. It depends on the slope of the land. It depends on the water table. I can give you a recent experience that we had. One of the people who worked with us, who unfortunately died of COVID a few months ago, she had become kind of a Fannie Lou Hamer of poverty. Her name is Pamela Rush. And Pamela died at the age of 50. She caught COVID and ended up on a ventilator and never was able to go back home.

But we had a number of people who had visited her home and visited her family, because she was sharing her stories so people can understand poverty. A lot of people don't understand poverty and the type of poverty that exists in places like Lowndes County.

And in the course of helping her a family came forward and offered funding for a home for her, another mobile home. And we purchased a mobile home, but we never got a chance to really put it in its place because she had a half acre of property. We hired engineers to go in and do the engineering on the property to determine where the septic system needed to be and what type of septic system. It ended up that the septic system design that we were given for that property that was approved by the state health department would have cost \$28,000 for installation. It was also going to take up about a third of her half acre property. And when they did the perc test and they went down to dig, to see the percolation rate, that's just how fast the water goes through the soil, they struck water at 25 inches.

So all of these factors can change depending on where you are in the county or where you are in the US. And then it also determines the cost of the system. Whereas if you are in an area where you have soils that percolate, you could have a system that may cost a good average around maybe eight to \$10,000. But if we're in an area where the water tables are higher, and I suspect that the water tables are getting higher because of climate change and sea level rise, costs are higher. So when we talk about sea level

rise, we don't think about how it can impact the septic system. But if you go to Miami and you look in the Miami area where they built a lot of development using septic systems. A lot of them are failing because of sea level rise because the water tables are getting higher. And when they get higher in the ground, they can take so much water. What it will do is push that sewage back into the house.

**TERRY VOGT:**

So, we were looking at what is technology doing? Are there some fixes that can be intelligent and affordable? Or was it all on the edge?

**CATHERINE FLOWERS:**

I think that what has happened, I think what we have to do is change the thinking around that. Because the people that are designing the systems, in a lot of cases, aren't living in these areas that are dealing with the problems. So I think that's where the inequality comes in. And as a result, what we have to do is change that paradigm where the people that are living in these areas and are impacted by these problems have to be sitting at the table when they design these systems. And they have to be listened to because ultimately what happens is that engineers are trained to go in and find a system, build something and move on. They don't stay to see whether or not it works or whether or not there's impact and environmental impact on the people that have paid for this. And we have seen a lot of failures and these failures, these designs, have been made without taking into account climate change.

Right now we're getting a lot of rain because we're in the tropical season. The second hurricane is coming into the Gulf. It's going to make landfall probably tomorrow. We're going to get potentially, they're estimating even in the Montgomery area, and we're almost two, three hours from the Gulf, that we could get about five inches of rain. So that means that a lot of these septic systems that are in Lowndes County are going to fail if they're not already failing. And that's when we started getting calls from people talking about sewage coming back into their homes. And it's not the individual septic systems, it's sometimes these small treatment plants that have been sold to these towns that are not working because they were built without taking into account climate change.

And in terms of solutions, I think that we have this opportunity to invest. We're actually organizing to work with some of our partners and we'll be making an announcement about that pretty soon if people want to be part of the solution when we're going to work on technologies to address this. Because let's think about it, what if we had a toilet that when we flushed it the water came out clean, that it didn't have to go through pipes and go to a treatment plant, that we can reuse. You know because we're going to ultimately have to do that, as we see what's going on in the West Coast right now with wildfires because it's so arid. There are places that are not in the news that have water issues.

A lot of water is lost through the toilet. Also the toilet is related to our well-being, whether or not we have diseases. And COVID is a very good example of that, of a virus that can exist in wastewater. If you test the wastewater or test raw sewage, you can see the level of COVID infection in the community. So the technology fix is going to be very important and we're actually working on that and we'll be making that

announcement soon. And we'll be looking for investors to invest in us creating this new technology. But the paradigm shift that will be different is that we're going to have people at the table, like people from Lowndes County, that have experience in the problem, that can help them to design a better fix.

**TERRY VOGT:**

That's great. Well, the Gates Foundation has plowed probably three, \$400 million into toilet solutions around the world. And I hope that maybe they have something to contribute there, either a technology or a type of toilet. There was a toilet that was invented by a friend of mine, a young woman named Virginia Gardiner, called Loowatt. In fact, I think the cost is like \$500 per toilet and it actually generates electricity through the capture of the methane gases. That's again technology meeting waste.

**CATHERINE FLOWERS:**

We have to create technology that's going to be socially acceptable. It's like creating a vaccine that people don't want to take because they don't have any confidence in it. We're going to have to do the same thing with technology and that's why I think it's important to have people at the table that have a vested interest in it, beyond the inventors and the engineers, the manufacturers, the companies that are going to profit from it. We have to have some wastewater equity and have the people at the table that are going to actually need this and need it right now. I guess I'm kind of a repressed science teacher. But I think that if we can treat wastewater to drinking water quality in outer space, why can't we do that here on Earth?

**TERRY VOGT:**

That's a great point.

**CATHERINE FLOWERS:**

We have to think bigger.

**TERRY VOGT:**

Yeah. So we only have a few minutes left Catherine, and it's been really fun and interesting and wonderful to have this time with you. Are you still writing poetry?

**CATHERINE FLOWERS:**

Every once in a while I get inspired and I'll drop a few rhymes that I don't share with anybody. But who knows, sometimes if I'm in a situation where I'm moved to do it, I'll do it to inspire young people, to let them know that I can drop a few rhymes every once in a while, too.

**TERRY VOGT:**

Well, you know, to each his own, I guess in that sense. Your four year old grandson King Josiah, what are your hopes for him in the next 20 years as he grows up?



**CATHERINE FLOWERS:**

I hope that he grows up in a world where he does not have to worry about being stopped by the police and end up being a statistic. I hope that he can walk into any place and people can see him and not look at his height and see him as a basketball player or a football player. You know, I hope that he can grow up and hope to be, I understand that he loves science, that he can actually parlay that into a career and do the things that he would like to do and be treated as a man. I do think that it is time for us to dismantle the type of social structures that we have in this country that breeds and feeds into a criminal justice system that's not equitable. That's my hope for my grandson. And I hope for seven generations to come, that I will be able to contribute to having a world, a living world that nurtures life instead of destroys life because of our ways in which we exploit the resources that Mother Earth has given to us.

**TERRY VOGT:**

Catherine Coleman Flowers that was eloquent, it was direct and I thank you so much for that summation. And we all hope that King Josiah has a life that you've described. And thank you so much for joining us today.

**CATHERINE FLOWERS:**

Thank you for the opportunity.

## CONNECTIONS BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND COVID-19

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14  
11:15 AM

### AARON BERNSTEIN

INTERIM DIRECTOR, THE CENTER FOR CLIMATE, HEALTH, AND THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT, HARVARD @DRARIBERNSTEIN

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### MODERATOR BARBARA BUCHNER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CLIMATE POLICY INITIATIVE @BBUCHNER13

### BARBARA BUCHNER:

Good morning, good afternoon and good evening to all of you. It's an absolute pleasure to moderate this event, Connections Between Climate Change and COVID-19. My name is Barbara Buchner, I lead an advisory and analytical organization called Climate Policy Initiative. We work with governments, businesses and with financial institutions to drive economic growth while addressing climate change. And we're known for tracking sustainable investment trends, for identifying innovative business models and for supporting the solutions that can drive a transition towards a low carbon climate resilient economy. I have two excellent panelists joining me for this conversation today, each eminent in their fields. I'm looking forward to a very good discussion. But before turning to each of them for their perspectives, I first wanted to reflect a little bit on the topic of today, on the connection between climate change and COVID-19, and in particular the connections that challenge us and the path forward that we can see as we make our way through the pandemic.

Globally, COVID-19 has claimed over 900,000 lives. These losses are absolutely terrible and saddening. But further, COVID has also laid bare the gaps in society and government's ability to address them, in terms of social safety net and weak points in the economy impacting the world's most vulnerable. Today, governments globally are rolling out plans and cash for economic stimulus and for enhancing social safety nets. And while I believe we can all agree that rescue must first and foremost have focus on addressing the health issues, it's also absolutely crucial that governments and other actors focus this recovery phase on building social, economic and financial resilience to be better prepared for the climate crisis that will be bigger in every way and stay with us over a much longer period of time.

While COVID has terribly claimed hundreds of thousands of lives, estimates from experts around the world foresee that these numbers rise to the 100 fold over the next decade should the world continue post-COVID into a business as usual pathway with emissions rising at their current levels. So stemming the next crisis means that mainstreaming climate action into regular decision making is the need of the day. We must continue ambitious action on climate change as the world recovers from the pandemic, particularly as trillions are spent on economic stimulus. The question is how?

My institution Climate Policy Initiative has been at the forefront of bringing forth policy and financial solutions for green recovery, so that we completely focus on three key ingredients emerging from that work. First, we're seeing very clearly that good policies lead the way, they're key to resourcing a sustainable and resilient recovery. Green fiscal policies like fossil carbon forming fossil fuel subsidies and procurement policies and green budgeting can be an important ingredient in a government's COVID-19 response toolkit. Why? Such approaches can really help countries remove inefficiencies in public expenditures and raise additional revenues, which can be directed towards immediate relief measures while also supporting medium to long term sustainable recovery planning aligned with climate objectives.

Second, it is clear in the wake of COVID that we need to use public finance even more wisely than ever before. With competing demands on public finance and rapid recovery needed, development financial institutions in particular have a major role to play. Development banks and the international financial institutions can help build strategy and support policy development. They can deploy a wide range

of instruments to manage, to share and to reduce risk that can convince relevant stakeholders and the decision makers across the public and private sector, and through these activities they can greatly enhance what the private sector can do. So expanding their role in the post COVID world is likely to be one of the cheapest and lowest risk ways to get low cost finance for the green recovery and for climate action. And third, we need to reset the whole financial system. Now with the shocks to the financial system and the real economy worldwide much more clearly highlighted through the COVID crisis, it is a time when we are increasingly seeing central banks and regulators are also looking to this next crisis.

For example, we've seen the Reserve Bank of India that just made a statement to this effect for the first time in their annual report, and the People's Bank of China has announced that it will be beginning to grade banks on their green finance performance quarterly starting next year. This is the moment in which all financial institutions need to ultimately align their portfolios with better, future strong, inclusive, sustainable and resilient. There is an urgent need to shift the entire financial system to better respond to, and help reduce and manage both physical and transition risks triggered by climate change, as well as to standardize related disclosure.

Work is under CPI joining forces with the European Climate Foundation and with Oxford University to facilitate the development of principles for financing a sustainable recovery. These principles are intended to provide a framework shared by governments, by public banks, private sector, academia and civil society organizations to ensure the public and private bailout and recovery finance is purposely aligned with the SDGs and with the climate objectives of the Paris Agreement, as well as its associated regional objectives such as the youth 2050 net-zero objective.

Governance of course is paramount and in fact, the coverage of the principles and associated signatories are expected to include ministries of finance, central banks, regulators, multilateral and national development banks, as well as commercial financial institutions. It's only when all players and all overseers are aligned, that we will really see funding for an opportunity and for urgent needs to help countries align their economies to those envisioned under the Paris Agreement and their own national determined contribution, including adapting future shocks to the courtesy of climate change. As we look to the recovery, we do have a window to rebuild our world for a more inclusive, more resilient, more sustainable future, targeting both short term economic recovery and long-term structural changes aligned with sustainable inclusive growth and strengthening the society's resilience.

However, not doing so will pose a significant threat to sustainable recovery and to the world as we know it. We need to act now and there is a risk that this window that we have at the moment to build this better world will be closing soon. I look very much forward to discussing these issues now with my panelists. Let me turn over to my esteemed panel, I have joining me two incredible speakers, and I will keep the description short since their bios are in the conference program book. But let me first and welcome Christiana Figueres, author and former executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Christiana, pleasure having you here.

#### **CHRISTIANA FIGUERES:**

Thank you Barbara, for inviting me.

#### **BARBARA BUCHNER:**

Let me also welcome Dr. Aaron Bernstein who is the interim director of the Center for Climate Health and the Global Environment at Harvard. Aaron, it is a pleasure having you as part of this conversation.

#### **AARON BERNSTEIN:**

Glad to be with you.

#### **BARBARA BUCHNER:**

Wonderful. Okay, so let's get started. Christiana, let me start with you. I've just finished reading your book and I tend to highly recommend it to everyone here. But in your book, *The Future We Choose*, you outline two possible scenarios for our planet. One, if we fail to meet the Paris climate targets and one that we manage to transform into carbon neutral regenerative growth and you describe the changes and the mindset that are needed to shift our action from self-centric to nature aligned, and you also argue for confronting the climate crisis head on, with determination and optimism. They are 10 concrete actions. Can you tell us a little bit more what you think is most important for each of us to do and also now that the COVID pandemic has changed any of the recommendations or priorities? Over to you.

#### **CHRISTIANA FIGUERES:**

Thanks Barbara. First of all, I totally agree with you that we have an extraordinary opportunity and responsibility right now, to make sure that the recovery packages align with the longer term goals, both the SDGs and the Climate Paris Agreement because as you have said, if we don't, we will simply not have the resources. As we know, we have \$12 to \$20 trillion already in recovery packages, and the world has never seen that amount of money being injected into the global economy, and that will determine the carbon intensity of the global economy not for a few months, but actually for a few decades, if not longer. I completely agree with you, that the crises have now converged. We didn't ask for the convergence of the health crisis, the economic crisis, the biodiversity crisis, the climate crisis and the social inequity crisis. They have converged and hence it is our responsibility to make the solutions converge, because we cannot address them sequentially.

We have run out of time and we will soon run out of money if we do it sequentially. Fortunately, we can actually address them all as a package and use this as a crisis that leads to a huge opportunity. I completely agree with your analysis and thank you for your steps that you're moving forward with giving some concrete guidance about how to do these recovery packages responsibly. Now, you've asked me what we can do? Well, as you and your institution and the ones that you worked with have already demonstrated, the first step is to get out of the gloom and doom box. Unfortunately, too many people are stuck in that box and despair leads to paralysis, and then we don't do anything in terms of moving us out. That of course does not mean denying

the science, it doesn't mean to deny the effects of what we're already seeing, for example, the terrible fires now in California, after the terrible fires in Australia.

It means to be steeped in the reality and the science, but certainly not limited by the reality that we're seeing today. It means that we have to decide that we do have the ingenuity, we have the capital, we have the technology and we know what the policies are, to avoid the worst. But more excitingly, not only can we avoid the worst impacts that are projected by science quite rightfully, but we can actually build a much better world than the one that we have right now. It can be a world that is regenerated, that is healthier, has much better quality air, that is more just, that is more stable. So the first step is to get out of the doom and gloom box and set our minds to, how are we going to solve it? Not can we solve this, but how are we going to? The second step is to make it personal. To really accept that we all have a personal responsibility and a personal role to play in this.

Because if we don't, if we don't personalize it, we're not going to get to it with the passion and the depth that we need to. So we need to make it personal, and understand that each of us has the responsibility to decarbonize our carbon footprint by one half over the next 10 years, as well as decarbonizing the entire global economy by one half by 2030. But also all of the smaller jurisdictions over which we have influence, whether that is the philanthropy investments that you're making, whether that is your city, your state, your country, whatever influence you have, we have to be able to make it personal, assume personal responsibility and go to scale. Because if we don't go to scale, then we stay in the playground area where we're just doing little pilot projects, and we've run out of time for that. So get out of the doom and gloom, decide that you're going to contribute very clearly and with determination, I call it stubborn optimism, just in case, so that we know that it has to be gritty. Make it personal and go to scale, would be my steps.

#### **BARBARA BUCHNER:**

Fantastic and I couldn't agree more with you, Christiana. To make it personal I think is really an important part. We've been working in this space in fear for a long time but I think you really have to make it personal. You talked about the wildfires, I know some of our colleagues on the call here are also based in California where I am today. And again, I have to say once you're in the middle of the actual implications of climate change and you realize what it does to our planet, I think you really have to step up and make it personal, and ultimately, hopefully, that will get us to the scale needed. But thank you also for already kind of outlining a little bit that all the crises are converging, so let me go to Aaron Bernstein. You are an established medical professional, you're leading on health and climate related global environmental issues.

But you obviously know now from some of the public opinion research that the COVID crisis has opened the public also to the serious nature of climate change. This is like two challenges being very often compared by experts in this field, both for the magnitude and the scale of both of the crises. But just from your perspective, is it accurate to compare the two? How do you see that these two crises are linked, how they're different in either the magnitude or the effect and is there anything that you think we can learn from dealing with COVID that we can take forward to this next crisis?

#### **AARON BERNSTEIN:**

Well, thanks for that question Barbara, and I should say at the outset that most of what I have to say, if not all, was probably said better by Christiana just a moment ago. We have this enormous amount of capital flowing into economies and what we do with that capital is going to shape progress on climate change, so they're linked in that way. We have to get out of doom and gloom, we have to be able to talk about benefits. Let me talk about some of the lessons that I think we might benefit from taking from these experiences. The first, Christiana alluded to, and Barbara you alluded to, which is, we allow inequalities to fester in society. There are racial inequalities, there are economic inequalities, there are other forms of inequalities, and that's a tolerance we can no longer afford.

Whether you look at the climate crisis or the biodiversity crisis as Christiana has talked about, all of these course through the fault lines that inequality creates. Coronavirus thrives on inequality, the climate crisis thrives on inequality, the biodiversity crisis really thrives on inequality and so, when we take actions that address one of these things in particular, we can actually address inequalities. It's a critical point, and in doing so you have potentially pandemic solutions as climate solutions, as solutions that promote equity. To get at that more specifically, a group of folks including myself got together and said, what would it take as an investment to prevent pandemics like the current one? How much should we have to spend? If you look at the places in the world where pandemics like Coronavirus tend to emerge, they happen to be often in tropics, often in forests and preventing deforestation is a cornerstone of preventing pandemics.

We also need to look at wildlife trade, we need to look at wildlife capture and biodiversity loss more broadly. But we put together a suite of packages that would really get at the root cause that spillover of pathogens into people. And if we spent what our best estimates were, to do that it would be about \$20 billion or \$30 billion a year. You spend that amount for a decade, and you're still only talking about one to two percent of the \$10 trillion plus that's being spent on Coronavirus, and the short news of that is salvation comes cheap. If there were ever a moment in time in recent history where the reality of taking these actions that get at root causes, conferring benefits that we simply can't refuse, I don't know what it is. Sure Coronavirus does have the potential to make disparities worse, it can derail progress on climate. But the reality is that when we show how much we stand to gain, particularly in things that have broad-based appeal, these issues around inequality and certainly climate. Remember deforestation is a huge part of our carbon problem.

We simply can't refuse to take up these offers. The last thing I'll say about lessons we need to learn is that we have to play the long game as Christiana describes it. We have to keep in mind what science tells us about where we need to go. But we also need to be mindful of the short game, and I actually think we've gotten, in some ways in the carbon space, to most people. This comes from my experience as a clinician. When I'm talking to people who come to see me because their child is sick, they want to figure out what's going to matter to them, to make this child better right now. If we're going to get enough people motivated to the point where we see the transformational change we need, we need to remember that climate actions matter to people's health today, in ways that will make pregnancies turn out better, keep people having heart attacks, save children's brains, save the brains of the elderly,

prevent cancers, all these things the science shows us are the benefits of preventing air pollution that comes from burning fossil fuel.

And we know of course, that those pollutants disproportionately affect people of color in the United States, the poor around the world. We may have put the cart before the horse, we call these things co-benefits, when the reality is these are the benefits. These are the things that people care about right now, and the more we talk about them as co-benefits, we're pretending as if they're less important. In fact, they're more important. In fact, most people, understandably, want to save the health of themselves and their families today. And of course, they want to save the planet and life on Earth for everyone in future generations. But we all obviously need to take care of ourselves first. So I think it's one of the things Coronavirus makes clear, is that when a pandemic hits and this is not going to be the last pandemic, if we're going to maintain focus on climate change, we need to be able to connect climate action to the near term.

That's why when we talk about the green recovery Barbara in your plans, you have to talk about the health effects of these investments. We're working with financial firms right now, who are focused on sustainability and carbon. But we have to talk about how those investments are going to affect air quality. Here's a really good example in the United States. In the US, you can make the same carbon benefit by putting renewables, whether it's wind or solar or pick your favorite, anywhere. It just depends on how much sun, how much wind, how much water, et cetera you've got. But those same carbon benefits have wildly different effects on health. Turns out in the United States, if you're going to cite renewables, you're going to save the most lives if you cite those renewables in the upper Midwest and the Great Lakes, many fold times.

In the world, if you look at a national basis, we save the most lives if we put renewables in India. Same amount of carbon is saved, but the more lives we save, the more people will not develop asthma, and will not die of pneumonia. Let's be clear, another connection between Coronavirus and fossil fuels and climate is the air pollution story, where we have this evidence that long term exposure to air pollution is increasing the risk of people dying from the disease. We have to integrate health into the frameworks about the green recovery, we have to focus on the disparities associated with those health impacts and we have to think about how those things matter to people's view of the actions we might take towards carbon. Because I tell you, if we can tell people that the carbon problems can be fixed, that's great. If we can tell them that their child is not going to have to go to the hospital with an asthma attack, their elder is not going to have to go die from pneumonia unnecessarily, boy they're going to be way more motivated together.

#### **BARBARA BUCHNER:**

Absolutely, thanks so much for that. You have to rethink the overall framework, the narrative of the language that you're using and really highlight what are the overall benefits from investing into a state of recovery, like showing how the impacts are today so I think that's very powerful. Certainly, I think your point on also preventing deforestation is something that we would all agree is something that we have to think about where we have the highest impact? What are the actions that we can do today in order to have the highest impact? Including by looking at them obviously and making sure that we're preventing deforestation. And I have some follow-up questions

Christiana, for both of you. I'd also like telling the audience that we would love to get your questions as well, and I'd be happy to integrate them in our conversation here.

Christiana, let's go back a little bit. I mean, it's clear that the challenges are significant. You started already talking a little bit about the solutions, and within your work, you've been leading and guiding the UNFCCC, you have always highlighted some transformational potential at sustainable energy offers. But I'd love to hear a little bit now given the gap since, and the issues you're seeing, we have been exposed because of COVID? What can we be doing in order to close the energy access gap, but also the water gap, the biodiversity gap? How are all these sustainable development goals linked, and what are some of the solutions that you see that are actionable even today, that we could really try to foster more?

#### **CHRISTIANA FIGUERES:**

Well, first, let me say I enthusiastically support every single word that Aaron said. Because if we do not humanize climate change, if we continue to talk about climate change in terms of megatons and I don't know what else, and just numbers and charts and temperatures, we're just going to get nowhere. I very much appreciate that argument, the fact that we're losing seven million lives prematurely to air pollution is just unforgivable. Why are we still doing that in 2020? I totally agree, and to answer your question Barbara, because Aaron used the example of India let me actually dive down there into Delhi. Because Delhi has the worst air quality numbers in the world, which is why Aaron says renewable energy in India. Not just Delhi, India has the most incredible concentration of two wheel vehicles. So 80 percent of all of the vehicles in India are two wheelers, and all of them burn fossil fuels through an internal combustion engine.

That is primarily responsible for the air pollution in New Delhi. That means that if you live in Delhi, statistically you will live six years less than if you live anywhere else just because of the air pollution. That's why Aaron is saying put renewable energy into India specifically in Delhi. Now, the amazing thing is that Delhi has been the city that has championed a completely innovative business model for electrifying vehicles, for electrifying motorcycles. They now have the commitment to move all of those two wheelers, those motorcycles over to electric motorcycles through a very innovative business model that removes the battery, which is the expensive part from the cost of the motorcycle, and puts batteries into what used to be gas stations. Used to be because I'm already thinking that in the future you just go and pick up your battery and you return it, and pick up a full one when you have depleted the batteries.

What that is doing is bringing access to these solutions way down to the bottom of the pyramid. Because if it's only people who do sophisticated things, buy Teslas or whatever, that's not going to get us anywhere. And it doesn't help to close the inequality gap, and it doesn't help us with public health. So we have to be able to open the flood gates of access to renewable energy, to electrified vehicles, especially for the millions of people who are depending on that, and need to continue their economic growth but can switch over to clean energy and renewable energies. Because they're so easily deployable, you can put small solar panels on any single small house anywhere in the world, and then you can electrify a home. To be able to bring clean electricity, renewable electricity, to all the 800 million people who still do not have electricity, we have to give them electricity, because that is at the bottom of



their development, and with electricity they will be able to pump water and to filter their water.

It all starts with having some basic electricity at home. But if they're going to do that through extension of the grid and fossil fuel plants, then we have done nothing for climate. We have to be able to see all of this in their interrelated connections, and be able to invent new business models that allow especially the millions of people, to be able to assess whether it is an electric vehicle that is clean and cheap, or whether it is renewable energy for their homes. It is very similar to the jump that we all made from landlines to cell phones. It's simply cheaper and much more user friendly to have a cell phone. It is cheaper and much more user friendly to have renewable energy solutions. We have to get that into our mind, this is no longer a huge burden, a huge cost, a huge punishment that we're paying for previous sins. The economics are on our side, this is the good news. We can bring the solutions of climate change to the masses, and thereby improve health.

#### **BARBARA BUCHNER:**

Thanks so much Christiana with that. Again, I'm very happy that you talked about that example, I think it might actually even come out of one incubator that we're at the moment managing which is called the Global Innovation Lab for Climate Finance. We have been trying for this specific program for India, which we hope we will be scaling up because I fully agree with both of you that we need to really find the solutions, particularly for the countries where the needs are highest. In this lab we focus exactly on innovative business models that can ultimately unlock private investment and make it in a way that we look at the co-benefits, which clearly we should not call co-benefits anymore.

I try to find new financing solutions, business models that really can bring renewable energy, that can bring the solutions across all the different sectors from energy, to adaptation, to water, to the countries so I'm excited that you're talking about that. But I want to stress one point that you made, that the economics are on our side, I couldn't agree more.

I mean, in almost all parts of the world, fossil fuels are not competitive anymore, renewables are much cheaper, so we really need to focus also on phasing out support for fossil fuels. I really want to make a plea here for that because I think, when talking to a colleague, we always say, when you're on a diet, you can't just only count the salad, you also have to count the ice cream. Seems like we're getting more and more salads, more and more renewable energy, but at the same time, we're also still seeing the bowl addicted to ice cream and we're still heavily investing in fossil fuels. I think we need to really be much louder and more pronounced about these issues. But then let me go back to Aaron. I think as we talk about sustainable development, it's clear from both the COVID crisis and also what to expect of climate change that there needs to be this increased focus on those who are most vulnerable.

That might include marginalized groups, women, children, elderly, refugees and others. Just to highlight one specific example here, of the many impacts climate change will have, increasing temperatures resulting in extreme heat is certainly going to be a silent killer. I know that you support the Arsht-Rockefeller Resilient Center's Extreme Heat Resilience Initiative, a mouthful, and in fact have been appointed a

senior fellow at the center recently. I'd love to hear from you a little bit more how big this problem is going to be and what has COVID again has shown us, in terms of the gaps in our being prepared to deal with this as a society.

#### **AARON BERNSTEIN:**

Sure, thanks Barbara. I think it is important to talk about heat, because in the scope of what climate change means for health, we easily latch on to other things and forget that the primary signal from climate change we see on the planet is warming. From a scientific standpoint, that's probably the easiest to look down the road and see what's coming, and what we see is coming is something we need to do a lot more to prepare for. Many people know that heat can increase the risk of dying on any given day. But it turns out that heat matters to lots of other things that I care about as a doctor, and obviously everyone else does too. But there's robust research showing that heat, for example, is associated with suicide risk and it's probably associated with violent crime. Heat is increasingly a risk factor for bad pregnancy outcomes. There's evidence, for example, that heat probably increases the risk of heart defects in fetuses.

When people started first looking at heat as a risk for health, people said, "Oh, it's just people who are about to die anyway and the heat just sort of pushed off the edge." We learned pretty quickly that's not true. Heat waves kill people who would not have otherwise died. Then you look short of that, and we realized that so many people's health is at stake in ways we're just really starting to understand. Then you realize, and this is where my doctor life comes in, now our bodies were designed to dissipate heat. We can do all kinds of things. We can dilate our blood vessels. We behaviorally go to places that we know are cooler. We might turn a fan on, if you have air conditioning we won't do that, and we sweat. And so, all of our biological mechanisms to deal with heat were trained in a climate era we're no longer in.

People have settled in places and adapted to the climate regimes in places at the cusp of where we can physiologically adapt. As we look down the future, we see maybe 20 percent of the people on Earth living in places today that if they stayed there, they're going to be too hot to be outside and be safe. I'm looking at that and I'm saying, "Okay we need to get our act together about what we're going to do here." That's particularly true in low and middle income countries where you have large numbers of people living around cities that have very marginal access to shelter, water, and certainly not air conditioning. So we're really trying to push forward on protecting those folks, because you know what, those are exactly the folks that are going to be first affected by, you guessed it, Coronavirus. They are going to suffer the most, and they are driving not only in many cases, the economic engines of countries, but the creative enterprises.

Christiana references this story of the batteries in India, and I don't know who invented it. But I expect that it's people living probably on the lower end of the socio-economic spectrum, because they see the reality of what it's going to take to move forward. They recognized the challenges. We see this time and again, the work we've done in global health. The innovations that have really driven gains in global health, almost always come from the people who are face to face with the problem that we're all concerned about. But they understand the resource phase, they understand the local concerns and they drive the ideas that lead to the gains for broader society. The real connections here, I just want to be clear though, is with heat. Right now, from a

scientific standpoint, we know heat does all those things I talked about, but it varies based upon where in the world we are.

A 90 degrees day in Boston, or 30 degrees Celsius day in Boston, is wildly different from a similar day in Miami or Delhi, or pick your favorite city around the world. We need to have a much better understanding of what that risk is, so that we can actually protect people. Turns out, we know that in most places when heat warnings are given, people are getting sick well before that. Particularly people who are most at risk, so we need that science. And we especially need to understand what will work to protect people, because the general idea now and this gets back to the interface between the pandemic and climate and heat, is air conditioning. We want to give everybody air conditioning. Well that's a viable solution if you want to have the money to have the electricity supplies to do it, and the built environment to support it. But if you're pushing fossil fuels to power all that air conditioning, you're going to create a huge air pollution burden at a time when air quality is almost always, when there's heat going, to be worse.

Let's be clear, it's not just Coronavirus that's worse with air pollution. The under five mortality rate in the world is driven by lower respiratory tract infections, meaning pneumonia. The lion's share, maybe 30, 40 percent of those are from air pollution. If those children hadn't been dosed with air pollution, they wouldn't have gotten that pneumonia, and they wouldn't be dead. Again, this is what I was talking about in my first remarks. The more you realize how climate solutions can drive gains broadly, particularly through disease burdens that are enormous and hard to get at through people like me in a clinic, you realize we can't afford not to do these things. But the problem is we don't look at health. We look at carbon flows, we look at warming potentials, we look at green finance from a carbon standpoint. But Christiana was talking about a new business model. Here's a vision for the future, what if the business investments, the investments in products, the investments in commodities didn't just look at carbon and water, among other sustainability goals which are huge and critically important.

What if they actually looked at what those things meant to the health of the people they were affecting? How would that transform people's investment portfolios and their business strategies? The great news is, they point out that you can't do those things without benefiting the climate readily. Now, you shouldn't forget about the sustainability goals because we need to be mindful of those and I think Christiana articulates clearly, but I think we're going to get the momentum we need much faster, when it gives people the burden at hand.

#### **BARBARA BUCHNER:**

Fantastic, and again I couldn't agree more. I certainly am already thinking, we are doing this annual tracking kind of finance flows, I'm already thinking about how we could expand that to actually look at the impacts on health and really making sure that you get a better, more comprehensive, more holistic understanding of what the impacts of solutions are. But being very powerful, looking at climate solutions which can really drive the gains more broadly, so thanks so much for that. We have two quick questions from the audience. One for each of you, actually, which is very nice. We have the first one, Christiana to you. A question of, is there something I can do today, this week? Start renewing my own carbon footprint or empower my friends or colleagues to do the same?

Then just Aaron for you, it's a question around whether there ways that education campaigns, which have worked for public health can also work to change behaviors that contribute to climate change? Again, how can we make that on a global scale? But first Christiana to you, back to you on what we can do today to change your behavior.

#### **CHRISTIANA FIGUERES:**

Yeah, actually pretty simple to start and take your first step. Go to Miss Google as I call her, and type in "carbon calculator" and out comes a long list of carbon calculators that if you just choose whichever institution you trust the most and they're all right there. Go into the carbon calculator, and they'll ask you certain questions and by the end, when you finished answering the questions, you will know what your personal carbon footprint is, depending on whether you answer the questions for yourself as an individual, or your family, or your city, or your community or whichever boundary you want to draw around the answers to those questions. But it's important for us all to have at least as a starting line, to know what our carbon footprint is. It's interesting that we check our bank accounts at least once a week, if not more often, but we have no idea what our carbon account is.

And the carbon account has actually much more impact on everybody's quality of life. The first thing is to establish where do you start without blaming yourself, those people who live in the United States will be substantially higher than people who live in India. But you don't have to blame yourself, that's the way it is. Instead of blaming yourself, figure out what your starting line is and then figure out how you're going to reduce that. You will be able to identify where your biggest emissions are through the questions that are asked, because they'll ask you about how you heat and cool your homes or your office, how you transport yourself, what kind of energy you buy. It will be very evident where your greatest emissions are, and then you can make a plan. Honestly, every single person listening to this can totally reduce their emissions by one half over the next 10 years, if not over the next five years.

We can all do it, because at some point you're going to replace your boiler, you can definitely increase the efficiency of your windows, your roof, your basement, you can definitely improve the way that you transport yourself, you can definitely stop eating red meat. You don't have to do it from Sunday to Monday but piece by piece, you can say okay right. I'm going to do meatless Monday, as I famously put out there. Then try to not eat red meat on alternative days until you get to the point where you don't need to eat red meat, honestly, and it's much better for our health as Aaron would point out. It's much better for our health not to consume red meat, and is much better for the health of the planet. Again, this overlap is so important. Figure out what your carbon footprint is, figure out where your major emissions are, identify where the low hanging fruit is, before this year is out, what can you do?

And then set out your plan. How are you going to get to one half of your current emissions? If you live in the United States, you're probably at about 20 tons of emissions per person, compared to India which is two tons, so there you go. If you're at 20 today, you can be at ten, if you're at 40 today, you can definitely be at 20. We can all reduce our emissions by one half, and we all have to. The global economy has to cut its emissions by half, by 2030. If we want any fighting chance of being able to live in a thriving economy and a stable natural environment. If we don't do that we

don't have any possibility, we can kiss it goodbye because we will be in a world of constant destruction, and increasing human misery. That's not the world that we want for ourselves or for our kids, so this is totally doable.

#### **BARBARA BUCHNER:**

Right, thanks so much Christiana. That's I think a very strong call for action for all of us. And back to you, Aaron now on how education campaigns could help in this context, if there's any lessons you have.

#### **AARON BERNSTEIN:**

Yeah, I know it's a good question. I've so little hair, and what hair I have is gray and if that's any reflection of anything, I may have been talking about climate change and health longer than anybody to students. We are just in the middle of a course that has been taken by over 100,000 students on climate change and health in over 100 countries. I've also gotten a lot of feedback and so, what I would say is that, I really do mean what I said about solutions and where they tend to come from. That's what I've learned in education as well. When you talk about climate change and health to bright motivated students...there's no question that my ability to engage in what is a very difficult subject over the long term has a lot to do with the energy and optimism and drive of the students I work with all the time, and they're constantly showing me where I can do better.

The first point is, and I learned this some years ago, we started our course at Harvard Medical School in the late '90s. It was the first course on global environmental change. I was not the course director back then, but we talked about the science of climate change and we talked about health, because at that point, health was a sort of, "wow, it's not about polar bears, we could talk about people that's sort of an interesting idea," and we talked a lot about the problems.

Just this past week, I had a paper rejected because it made the assertion that climate change affected every organ system. One of my MD colleagues couldn't believe that was possibly true and this is the kind of feedback I've gotten and learned from. But we learned that climate change really does, I mean there's no part of our body that's spared, there's no person who's spared. And students immediately latched on, it's not that we get that health is a problem, but you need to talk about the people who are affected.

Who are they? The equity concerns, the north-south divides. And almost intuitively, in retrospect it's not clear, but it might have been from their own learning up to the point of taking the course. They knew that if you look at any society in the world and what drives the understanding of right or wrong in those societies, every society is fundamentally concerned with equity. You will not find society... Some people are worse off, some people are better off, that's fine and so by showing that, that was the first thing. Is that, you understand that this is not a challenge unique or specific to one group of people. But the dynamics of it show that there are near term equity issues like with air pollution, there intergenerational equity solutions, i.e. the people of today are living in a very different place as Christiana alluded to, than would be the future if we fail to act.

That empowers people with grandchildren, they think to themselves "I might not have so many years left to live, do I really want to die knowing that I didn't act to protect the welfare of my grandchildren?" It certainly empowers new parents. The next big lesson came after we talked about the problems, and who was affected. There was a tipping point and you both have alluded to this. It would be one thing if we were sitting here facing the climate crisis and there's nothing to do about it. If we didn't have renewables that were affordable. If we didn't understand the nature of the problem, we'd be in a much different place. In medicine, those are the problems we can't stand. We have these problems in medicine in which we understand how they work in every which form, but we have no solution, and I would much rather be in a situation where we understood nothing about the problem, but knew how to cure it.

Well, in the case of climate change, we have both. We know what the problem is, how it works and what we need to do about it. The students said, "Okay, tell us about the solutions. We get the problems, talk about the solutions." They really, to Christiana's point, they didn't want to hear about the doom and gloom anymore. They barely wanted to hear about the science anymore. Because they've been taught it, they know it. They want to learn about what people are doing to fix it, and that's critical. Not just to stimulate conversations about what the right path forward is, but one of the things that's being put out there by those who would have us not do what we need to do is, well the climate change folks, they're just a bunch of dooms dayers and all they do is talk about doom and gloom and that makes people want to jump off cliffs. It's irresponsible, in fact, that you're talking about the stuff and the surveys they point to, saying how many people in the world are concerned.

Well, maybe they're justifiably concerned, because not only do they see the problems but they see the inaction associated with it. I can tell you, again from being a doctor and you don't have to be a doctor to know this, when you tell a parent a terrible diagnosis, and then you tell them we can cure it, like childhood leukemia is a great example. When I started practicing childhood leukemia, it was somewhat curable. Before I started practicing childhood leukemia, the most common forms were 100% lethal. In some parts of the world, we barely are able to treat it and it's still that way. Today, the most common forms of childhood cancer are almost 100 percent curable. I can tell that mother, it's usually a mother, sorry dads, but it's usually a mother, "terrible diagnosis but we can cure this." And the last thing I've learned and this is again from the students, is if you understand the problem, you understand the solutions and you understand who it affects.

That's actually not enough to fix this problem. Because we know all that, and we're not doing enough. You have to understand what's going to motivate people to do something. That's why our center is so squarely focused on near term health effects. Because we know not just from experience, but from science. That these are the arguments that transform climate change from a political problem into a personal problem that you can do something about. Those are the things I would say and that's as true for COVID, as it is for climate.

**BARBARA BUCHNER:**

Fantastic. Thank you so much Aaron. I know we are like five minutes over, let me actually just very briefly, just sum up the main takeaways from this fascinating conversation. I want to thank my two panelists very much. It's very clear we are at the moment where there is the convergence of the crises. We have to get out of the doom and gloom box to make it personal and get to scale how. Again, I think we've heard here in this conversation that we've got to get to the root cause of the crisis to prevent future crisis and in order to do that, we need to humanize climate change, we need to connect the long term and the short term and we need to factor into across all our frameworks. I think good news, we've heard a lot of good news here, some of them just come cheap and then we take action. We can also address inequalities and economics are on our side.

But you still need more information, more data and a better assessment of the full set of impact, and really making sure that we highlight how climate solutions can drive broader gains. As for philanthropy, from its critical support for climate related issues to that we worked and to support COVID related to recovery, particularly in the absence of good governance in many countries, I think philanthropy plays an outright role in this matter. It's not just because this is a global forum for philanthropy, but because philanthropy has come to play a role in facilitating and supporting innovation and also implementation that punches above its weight.

It plays when it really comes to impact. Just to make sure the take away for philanthropy today is, I think take this moment as a challenge, but also as a learning and an opportunity to redouble efforts towards laying a path for a more sustainable and more inclusive future, more resilient future long term. Let's focus on solutions, let's start from ourselves today. Let's go on this website that Christiana said, and let's make sure we all calculate our carbon account and make sure we check in every day to really help and make a change, and tackle this crisis. We then thank you so much all of you and thanks so much for being with us and thanks again to the organizers and to my co-panelists here.

**CHRISTIANA FIGUERES:**

Thank you very much.

**BARBARA BUCHNER:**

Thanks.

**AARON BERNSTEIN:**

Thank you. Pleasure being here.

# PRIORITIZING CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE WORLD STAGE: A CONVERSATION WITH FORMER UN SECRETARY GENERAL BAN KI-MOON

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14  
12:10 PM

## **BAN KI-MOON**

FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UN @UN

## **MODERATOR PHILIP YUN**

CEO, WORLD AFFAIRS @PHILIPWYUN

## **PHILIP YUN:**

Hello everyone. This is Philip Yun again. So day one of GPF 2020 is almost done. And as we stated at the outset, this first day was about getting a better understanding of the complexity of climate change. And as we found out, it touches on everything that we do and everything we're concerned about in so many profound ways. Today, to end day one, I'm most pleased to host a conversation with former United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon. From the moment he became Secretary-General in 2007, Ban Ki-moon made climate change a top priority. The 2007 climate change summit, which brought together 180 countries at the highest levels, was one of his very first initiatives. This then led to, as we know, the historic 2016 Paris Climate Accord, which the United States has since withdrawn from. There'll be more on that.

Since stepping down from the UN in 2016, Ban Ki-moon continues his public service to the rest of the world. He regularly calls attention, among many issues, to ongoing conflicts around the globe, to the increase of economic disparity worldwide. And, of course, to the need for all of us to act now on climate change. On a personal note, I first met the Secretary-General almost 25 years ago when I was a young diplomat at the State Department. And I had the great honor of working with him pretty closely on North Korea-related issues. He was then, as he is now, one of the most highly respected and liked individuals who have ever worked at the South Korean Foreign Ministry. And I can say personally, you will not find a person more dedicated to serving the greater good, a warmer human being, and a better example of how we can all make a difference. So, Mr. Secretary-General, I just can't tell you how pleased I am, how delighted I am, to be with you, for you to be here with us today, and to have a chance to talk with you. It's been so long.

## **BAN KI-MOON:**

It's a great pleasure to see you again, Philip. And thank you very much for your very kind words. I don't know whether I deserve those kinds of compliments, but I'm still working hard since my retirement from the United Nations. My commitment has never then never changed.

## **PHILIP YUN:**

Yes. And thank you for that.

So we have only a few minutes here, about 15 minutes. Let's get started. So in your 10 years as Secretary-General, you successfully shepherded two signature agreements for the 193 member countries of the United Nations. First, there was the Agenda 2030 with its 17 sustainable development goals, the SDGs. And second, as we talked about before, the Paris Climate Accord. Looking at the Paris Climate Accord today, where has it succeeded and where has it failed? And of course please let us know how much more complicated or not it has been with the United States opting out.

## **BAN KI-MOON:**

This is the most important issue, serious issue, humankind is now facing and will continue face. Climate change is an existential threat to humankind. I have been working very hard as you said, and there was a moment when whole international community was united together. That was possible because of global leaders like



the president of the United States, then President Barack Obama, and also China's president, Xi Jinping, and President Emmanuel Macron of France. And there are so many, all the global leaders were united, together with the United Nations, and I was always working together with them.

At this time, while we had been working very hard, there are so many things which have to be done urgently because they are giving us a serious warning. As Pope Francis said just this last April, "the current disasters which we are facing are the response of nature." I have been calling towards people that nature is going its own way, and they are sending us a strong warning.

So it is humankind who have to listen to the voices of our Mother Nature. Again, quoting Pope Francis, who I met last year in the Vatican, he said "God always forgives, but nature never forgives."

Now what is lacking at this time, of course, in terms of ambition levels, we are far below, but most importantly, we are lacking, conspicuously, the global leadership. Unfortunately, United States president Donald Trump has decided to withdraw from the Paris Climate Change Agreement. That was the work of 197 state parties, more than the number of UN member states. Only the United States has withdrawn from this. It will become effective on November 4th, just one day after the presidential election. I am encouraged that one of the presidential candidates, Joe Biden, promises that if and when he is elected, he will make sure that the US will return to Paris Climate Change Agreement.

President Trump's decision to withdraw was politically very short-sighted, economically irresponsible, and scientifically very wrong. So he is based on wrong scientific beliefs of his own. Therefore, I'm urging him to come back to Paris Climate Change Agreement. It was a terrible misjudgment that betrays the true interest of his country.

But I have been heartened by the determined response of many American people starting from states like California, Oregon, Wisconsin, New York, Massachusetts, and there is a trail of governors. At least 350 mayors of major cities have confirmed and more than 1000 business firms have confirmed that the only way for humankind, their businesses, and their country to survive is to implement the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

Therefore, I am very much supporting what is known as we are still in campaign among American leaders. And I'm also urging all leaders of the world to do their utmost efforts before it is too late, before we regret for our succeeding generations. We have a moral and political responsibility to make sure that we leave this planet Earth sustainable and climate resilient for our succeeding generation.

#### **PHILIP YUN:**

So Mr. Secretary-General, I know that a lot of our participants may have some questions about the sustainable development goals that you were so critical in helping to establish. And we know that climate change affects almost all of them. Very quickly, can you talk to us how you might prioritize those actions needed at climate change on the international level to advance the SDGs?

#### **BAN KI-MOON:**

As you may see, I have been carrying this SDG button all the time to make people realize what this is about. This is a United Nations designated mark button to make sure that everybody understands what SDG means. The Sustainable Development Goals with the 17 goals are the most far-reaching and most ambitious visions the United Nations has ever presented to the world's people, to make sure that we live in a sustainable world. To make sure that there should be nobody who suffers from abject poverty, who dies from preventable diseases, and there should be no children, school-age children who are out of school, and et cetera, et cetera. So there are 17 goals including climate change. So climate change is one of the 17 goals, but because of the importance and urgency of the climate, the member states have decided to have a separate check to negotiate the climate agreement. So this is a treaty. The treaty is mandatory, while other remaining 16 goals may be political declaration. But they are very, very important. It's a vital that SDGs are viewed holistically and not seen as you could just think in a separate silo to climate. So all 17 goals are inter-related

#### **PHILIP YUN:**

And then, Secretary-General, so we know that this is a gathering of philanthropists and NGOs all working together, can you maybe just talk about your views about what philanthropy and civil society can do most effectively to attain the SDG goals and your response to climate change?

#### **BAN KI-MOON:**

Philanthropy has a critical role to play, both as a bridge between worlds of business and development, and as a way of channeling innovation and entrepreneurship in the service of sustainability. That means this is one very important part of forcing a global partnership. Without partnership, nothing can be done. There should be a strong tripartite pillar or partnership: government leaders, business leaders, and civil society.

Philanthropic foundations, like Bill Gates or Warren Buffett, George Soros, Ted Turner, there are a lot of philanthropists. I think they constitute an immense resource in terms of financial capital and also human expertise. The insight and the experience of philanthropists can help politicians and the scientists and policymakers approach challenges in a different and more efficient way. Moreover, they can provide essential capacity building and mentoring to civil society and grassroots-level institutions across the Global South.

It's very important that the developed Global North helps the Global South because they do not have the capacity and resources. It is unfair that those people who have contributed the least to current global problems should bear a brunt of their problems on their part. Therefore, the role of philanthropist is to them.

#### **PHILIP YUN:**

So I know that you've just talked about the importance of civil society, and I know there's the Ban Ki-moon Center for Global Citizens. So before I go onto that, because I think it's really important people hear about that work that is going on, I wanted to ask about the mass movements that are going on around in the world. I mean, you have specifically commended the spirit of our young people. And I think you've said,

quote, “young people protesting around the world, speak more sense than many world leaders.” I think that’s what you said. And then you’ve said that young people have succeeded in bringing the world’s attention to climate change where many others have failed. So in the United States, in recent months, we’ve seen the protest movements about racial inequality and injustice, how important is youth activism and how can we harness it to take meaningful action on climate change?

#### **BAN KI-MOON:**

While serving at the United Nations, I had been urging the world leaders, “Listen to the voices of the people, what their challenges and aspirations are.” A lot of people, global leaders, have not been listening properly. We are living in a world where people’s voice are not the well heard and respected. That’s why there are many peoples who are expressing their anger. The protest in terms of human rights is an inalienable right of the people and is a critical role in these troubled times. Billions of people around the world have been inspired by what is known as Black Lives Matter protests, to actively confront systemic racism in their own communities.

In the same way, young climate activists like Vanessa Nakate of Uganda with whom I had a very nice video talk a few days ago, and also Greta Thunberg, who has been working to speak out towards world leaders to do their own part to make sure that this world can be sustainable. They have been relentless in their determination to keep climate change and sustainable development at the top of the global agenda and voicing not just the fears of youth, but also the determination to work for a positive future. Successful protest movements don’t just stay on the streets and don’t indulge in performative slogans or inflated rhetoric. In this regard, I know that the people in Belarus are also speaking out. Recently in my capacity as deputy chair of The Elders, I have sent a letter to president Lukashenko of Belarus, just last week, “Mr. President, please listen to the voices of the people and do what is right for yourself, your country, and your people.” And I’m going to really continue this role.

#### **PHILIP YUN:**

Okay. Thank you. I think we have time for maybe one other question that I wanted to ask, tell us a little bit about the Ban Ki-moon Center for Global Citizens. And I think in that context, given what we know about climate change and given what we’re witnessing around the world in terms of melting ice, rising sea levels, extreme weather events, I mean, we have wildfires going like crazy here in California. In your view, how much time do we have and what actions can we take now to accelerate? Are you optimistic? How do you feel about all of what we’re doing at this point and what do we need to do to, to move forward?

#### **BAN KI-MOON:**

Basically, I am an optimist. And without being an optimist, you cannot handle all these issues. When you are pessimists, you are not moving. You are moving. Even though I am often disappointed by the leaders who are not doing anything. That’s why I have been closely watching the behaviors and mindset and leadership style of the global leaders during the last 10 years. One thing which comes out conspicuously is that they are mostly lacking global citizenship. At best, they are the national leaders. When they come to the United Nations, they pledge everything. “I will do this and that for

humanity for the world.” Once they are flying out of JFK airport, then they become hostages of national agenda. That’s why I felt very sorry. Very regrettable. That’s why as soon as I retired from the United Nations I thought that my role should be to foster global citizenship among youth.

I do not have much hope for current global leaders. So it’s important to foster global citizenship among youth and women empowerment. That’s why I decided to establish, together with my good long-time friend and colleague present Heinz Fischer of Austria. We are both co-chairmen and established Ban Ki-moon Center for Global Citizenship in Vienna, where there are many UN organizations, UN headquarters, located in Vienna. Then I’ve been reaching out to world’s people. Following 2019 last year, I thought that I need to complement my work at the global citizenship center. So I established another center foundation in Seoul, the Ban Ki-moon Foundation for a Better Future. This is mutually reinforcing.

Now, for example, the COVID-19 pandemic has shown how we are all bound together and by our common humanity and that solidarity is essential in overcoming common challenges. These solidarities and humanity come only when you have global mind and global vision based on global citizenship. I can tell you one episode, which I experienced when I was a young boy.

In 1962, I met the president John F. Kennedy at the White House as a young high school boy. He told me that national boundaries do not mean much during the Cold War. But what is important for you young people is whether you are ready to extend your helping hands to others. This is compassion. A lot of leaders have passion only. But this passion must be accompanied with compassion for others. That is a global citizenship. That is why I’m working to make this world better for all.

#### **PHILIP YUN:**

Okay. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, thank you very much. It was wonderful to see you and wonderful to talk with you, please take care. And we are done with this session.

#### **BAN KI-MOON:**

Thank you very much. It has been a great honor and pleasure to have this occasion.

#### **PHILIP YUN:**

Thank you.

So this brings us to the end of our first day at GPF. We started off with a challenge from Hewlett Foundation president Larry Kramer, and we ended with a similar challenge and ray of hope and optimism from former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Please remember these touchstones that I talked about at the start of day one today: insight, action, and purpose. Tomorrow morning, we’ll take a deeper dive into the ways that climate change intrinsically affects everything the philanthropic community cares about, we’ll hear about those challenging standards and practices, and those who are paving the way for a much more diverse and inclusive climate movement. We start at 8:00 AM Pacific Time with the former president of Ireland, Mary Robinson, in conversation with Wanjira Mathai, vice-president and regional director for Africa, World Resources Institute.

We’ll see you tomorrow.

# THE CASE FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE: FORMER UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS MARY ROBINSON

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15  
8:00 AM

## MARY ROBINSON

FORMER PRESIDENT OF IRELAND AND FOUNDER, MARY ROBINSON  
FOUNDATION - CLIMATE JUSTICE @MARYROBINSONCTR

## MODERATOR WANJIRA MATHAI

VICE PRESIDENT AND REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA, WORLD  
RESOURCE INSTITUTE @MATHAIWANJIRA

## JONATHAN VISBAL:

Good morning for all of you here on the West Coast of the United States, and good afternoon or good evening for those in other parts of the country or around the world. Welcome to the second day of the 2020 Global Philanthropy Forum. I'm Jonathan Visbal, chairman of the board of World Affairs, and I'd like to add my welcome to all of you. As we experience extreme weather events more frequently like the wildfires that have ravaged California, we must seek to work together around the globe to mitigate climate change.

Today, we'll be taking a deep dive into solutions to the challenges of climate change. We start with a conversation between two women who are committed to making a difference on the issues of climate justice. Wanjira Mathai, daughter of Nobel Peace Prize winner, Wangari Mathai, who is in Kenya and is regional director for Africa of the World Resources Institute, and former president of Ireland, Mary Robinson, who is in Ireland and currently leader of the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice. Please join me in giving them both a virtual round of applause.

## WANJIRA MATHAI:

President Mary Robinson so wonderful to be having this conversation with you. It is delightful to be here today, and thank you to the Global Philanthropy Forum for the opportunity to participate in this briefing, or at least this discussion about climate justice, an issue that you have taught me a whole lot about Mary. I just wanted to start by reflecting on the fact that these are really interesting times. I came in to the vice president and regional director role at World Resources Institute just at the end of last year, and what a time it's been already. Interesting times indeed. We have the COVID pandemic that has completely reshaped how we think about the future, and how urgent it is that we think about the future. We also have the global economic downturn that is epic and you know a lot about how to drive economies and how to bring out the confidence of populations at times like this.

Then I'm also inspired quite a bit by the Black Lives Matter movement, because that has been a movement that has sharpened and reminded us and triggered a global reckoning about race relations, equity, justice, including climate justice and the general anti-black sentiment around the world. It's important that we consider that these are the issues that climate justice is all about. As I reflected on the fact that we were going to speaking today, climate change of course remains the big issue of our time. But I've started thinking about what does that mean for our generation as we step into the leadership for Africa? We know that the poverty levels are unprecedented, agricultural productivity is sluggish, and has been such a big part of what is going on with the pandemic and the impacts here in Africa.

But one of the things that inspires me, and I'd love to hear what you think about this Mary, is the fact that Africa is the fastest urbanizing continent in the world, and certainly the youngest. I surprise myself every time when I realize that Africa's average median population is 19 years old. That is amazing. What is the promise that we have for these young people, men and women and gender as an inclusive parameter? You've been talking about all of this, so I'm really looking forward to hearing where you're thinking now in terms of justice and how we make and build hope in the minds of these young people. Just delighted to be sharing this stage with you today.

**MARY ROBINSON:**

Well thank you Wanjira. As you were speaking I was thinking to myself, I came into this climate world with a mentor, your mother, Wangari Mathai who got the Nobel Peace Prize for her work on environment and peace, particularly in your native Kenya. She was a wonderful friend as you know, and now it's great that I'm also learning from you, but also in an intergenerational conversation with you, if I can put it that way, which is very nice. Let's start with Africa because I think that's important. But if I may very briefly, because I've been thinking a lot about climate justice, I'd like to reframe because I don't think you've heard me on this. It's relatively recent that I've come to actually five layers of injustice that mean we have to have a climate justice approach. They're very relevant even to Black Lives Matter in a way that I'll say.

The first injustice is that climate change disproportionately affects the poorest countries, the poorest communities, small island states. That's a very racial mix. That's black and brown people. That's the Black Lives Matter in its own way, and COVID has shown this in a particular way. That's the first layer. The second layer is gender. Within that women with their different social roles, with their lack of the same access to land, to rights, to assets, and yet they have to put food on the table, they have to go further and get water and firewood, etcetera. That's the gender dimension. The third dimension is the one that children have reminded us of, the intergenerational injustice. You talked about Africa being a very young continent, and African voices need to bring out that intergenerational injustice as well.

The fourth layer is one that is particularly relevant, it's the different pathways to development. The industrialized countries like my country Ireland and the United States built their economies on fossil fuel. Now we've got to urgently wean ourselves off fossil fuel. That's our issue and we're not doing it well enough or urgently enough. But developing countries have to bring their people out of poverty. Before Paris, and I was a special envoy at the time of the UN, they wanted to do this in as green a way as possible, but they said we will need the investment. We will need the training. We will need the skills in order to do it. We haven't shown that solidarity enough. That's another injustice if you like.

The fifth injustice, which in many ways probably was the strongest for your mother, Wangari, but I came to relatively late is the injustice to nature herself. The loss of diversity, the extinction species, what we're doing to the ecosystems that support us. Now, all of those in combination are highly relevant to Africa for the reasons that you gave, and yet you're also positive as I would be. I see Africa as being the continent with the greatest potential this century. For the first time I see the European Union actually recognizing that. The European Union with its Green New Deal, with its policy on biodiversity, and with its farm to fork policy, it's very relevant. There's going to be very important EU summit in October where somehow we've got to bring these two continents together in much better way.

**WANJIRA MATHAI:**

Lovely Mary, I couldn't agree more. Maybe even more urgent is how do we actually build the trust that has been so lost especially because as you've mentioned in the pathways to development, what is perceived by many African countries as an inauthentic engagement with Africa. The fact that we are still talking about

adaptation, we're still talking about loss and damage, we're still talking about stranded assets. How do we give Africa the signals that are needed so that she can begin to authentically prepare? Because I think one of the biggest disappointments, and it's still also a great opportunity for COP26 and the justice process, is how we signal that Africa is a genuine partner in the climate discussions. That what we do, and especially now with COVID, what we do with our natural resources matters, but we need to have the technical support that is necessary to make that transition.

That for some reason, Mary, has been so difficult. Even as a student of the climate process I'm still trying to get on top of it. I find it very difficult to answer the question as to why. So what will we need to do differently is what I keep asking myself. How can we be authentic in this engagement? I would love to hear some of your thinking on that. Then I love what you said about the youth population in Africa. We have a population that is raring to go. I often say that if we don't have real opportunities to give them the real support they need, we have to get out of the way. They are absolutely prepared to do whatever it takes. But what does real engagement mean? Where are the resources to help those who are creating businesses around nature-based solutions? So that they can begin to be part of the climate solution, to be part of the biodiversity solution, but also earn a living and create jobs for themselves. That's the sort of hope we're looking for? Is it possible? What do you think?

**MARY ROBINSON:**

Well, I certainly understand when you say there has to be trust, and in my view trust has to be earned. You earn trust by your actions, not by promises that you fail to deliver on. For too long that has been the case, and there's been an arrogance of power in the relationship between the European Union and the African continent. But I do honestly think there is a change. The change is happening within the European Union. In the leadership now there is a genuine commitment to a Green New Deal, to a biodiversity strategy, to reform of the common agricultural policy, to a very different approach. That is being mirrored by real discussion about how to build resilience in African production of food and agriculture. That's very important for the continent.

But also energy, access to renewable energy, and how this can be greatly augmented and how there can be a real partnership as you said, not a top-down, a so-called bigger continent talking to a smaller brother or something. No, a real respectful working together relationship. Then I think we can make a lot of progress. I think that philanthropy can do a lot in helping to support projects for resilience, projects for food systems, for nature-based solutions, for women-led projects. I worked with some philanthropies, the Oak Foundation. My friend Heather Grady who worked with me, and who is now with Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors in San Francisco and the Climate Resilience Fund.

We worked on climate justice, meaning trying to get the money to women on the ground who are building their communities. It is amazing how little gets to that cohort, and yet they are doing so much, and they're doing it despite the fact that they don't even have the land rights sometimes. Yet they come together as a group and they fight back and they're doing it, and that was what I wrote about in my book on climate justice. We need philanthropy to see how to support resilience building and access to energy, clean energy, a lot of it off grid but good quality energy.



**WANJIRA MATHAI:**

I agree that's so important. You mentioned agriculture Mary, I recently read some statistics from AGRA that agriculture is responsible for close to 70 percent of the jobs on the continent. That's a lot. The weight on that sector, no wonder we are focused so much on agriculture and the fact that it is being interfered with, and the supply chains for agriculture and food production are so critical in this recovery. I agree, I think philanthropy has an interesting role to play. Sometimes I've started to wonder whether there's the actual role where the investments are supporting some of these very important activities on the ground. But also the role in sending signals and supporting some of the democratization process, the civic, and the political economy side of this discussion.

Because for us on the continent, sometimes you see people doing so much good work, but the decisions are made within the context of this political economy, which is sometimes extremely frustrating. We'll say the right things, but we need to engage. I wonder what in your opinion some of the winning strategies are? You know a lot about winning political economy strategies. So how can we get young people standing up for what they believe? Because that's one of the things that I continue to advocate with youth leadership? But also that philanthropy supports some of these areas. The role of the political economy in climate justice movements, what would you think?

**MARY ROBINSON:**

It's really very important. You mentioned earlier the median age in Africa being 19, but the median age of African leaders is somewhere in the 60s. We need young leaders to be given the opportunity to show that leadership, which I very much agree with you there. We're seeing it in culture, we're seeing it now online, the websites, the innovations including in your own Kenya, very innovative work being done. We need to see more of this. We do need space for civil society to be more involved in the decisions affecting the country. And political leaders mustn't distrust their own civil society and think that they're somehow the opposition. They're not, they just want to engage.

Also, political leaders need to listen more to their private sector. I've heard a number of really good private sector African champions saying if only our government would listen, if only our government. These are some of the ways in which space needs to be opened up. Philanthropy as a rule, because it's independent, because it's flexible, it can move quite quickly. It can adapt to. We need to learn the lessons from COVID. I think there are four, and I'll tell them very briefly, four lessons that are really important. The first lesson is that collective human behavior matters. It's the only thing protecting us from the virus, and it will matter but we need collective behavior on climate, like the collective consumer behavior in the richer parts of the world to consume less. Produce less, consume less, and waste less. Waste less food in particular, all of that.

Secondly, government matters. This is really going to be very important. The quality of government in leading countries, including African countries, to get us out of this problem. I'm very glad that African led countries have been doing particularly well, and I hope that will be noted in this conference. The third issue is that science

matters. We've listened to the health science, but we also need now listen to the climate scientists in a similar way. This climate crisis is absolutely looming and urgent, not going away. We're somehow fixated now on COVID as we have to be. You have a locust problem, as I know in your part of Africa, and elsewhere that's quite severe.

The final thing that matters, and it's one that I think climate justice wants to really inspire is compassion. Everybody is suffering, and I don't mean we're suffering equally, actually COVID exacerbates inequalities, so we're not suffering equally. But we're all somehow changed and affected, and different, and suffering a bit. That creates empathy. I'm hoping that there will be a real empathy and solidarity going forward. Because without it, we're not going to be able to create the trust that you're talking about. We absolutely need that trust and we must create it.

**WANJIRA MATHAI:**

Wow the empathy is such an important thread that is cutting through so much of what we're talking about these days. You're absolutely right about COVID. We've been saying science matters in climate forever. I remember An Inconvenient Truth, and that was more than enough science in such a compelling way presented to us. But I know for certain that it should have, in many ways, the parallels we draw from the fact that COVID has been in the places where I think unified action has been demonstrated and countries have shown great progress in trying to address this issue is that it has been guided by science. I think that it is one of the few times now you'll hear quite a bit in Africa people say, "The way our leaders have dealt so unified and committed to COVID, they should deal the same way with all these other issues that they seem to ignore." Somehow the political economy clicked with COVID, and they were able to address this issue.

I can speak for Kenya and a lot of the countries around us, that we address this issue with great focus. There was a lot of discussion transparency in terms of the discussion. But the governance issues underlying the resources that are spent, we see still some of the old discussions around transparency and corruption that we need to get a handle of. Those are the same ones that are holding us back I believe in all of these other issues. But I have to say, the fact that we've been seeing science matter is so starkly demonstrated by COVID because it was about listening to the scientists. Many times we are still in curfew here, and many times the president would come every month and tell us that this curfew will be extended for another 30 days because the science is not on our side.

Can we use that same intellect and political economy when we are addressing issues that matter like infrastructure and urbanization and the protection of vital landscapes on our continent? I hope that we can continue to drum that up so that our leaders see that we really appreciate, and things actually work when we use the talent, the deep talent that is in the country, and rely on science as much as possible. We could talk forever Mary I love this, and I hope we can continue. I really look forward to reaching out and seeing how we can continue to work together as we have in the past. My mother was very proud of the partnership you shared, the sisterhood she called it, and I hope that we can continue with a lot of the leaders that you have inspired as well.



**MARY ROBINSON:**

Well, thank you Wanjira. I also have great faith in young people today. I think you mentioned over and over science matters, and I wanted to mention over and over government matters. Government has to be service to the people of the country, not the corruption, not the cronyism, not the problems that continue in lots of parts of the world not just in Africa. Government matters and maybe coronavirus is a time for reflection for all of us, and we can learn lessons that would be really important for climate justice. I'm so glad that the children use the chant of climate justice and call us out. We want a safe future for everyone. I must tell you a secret Wanjira. Yesterday I had my seventh grandchild, so I have seven grandchildren. I have three boys and four girls, seven grandchildren. I'm so happy about it, but so concerned about their future. So that drives me as well. I know your mother was very driven in her passion as you are. It was great to talk with you.

**WANJIRA MATHAI:**

Thank you. May you continue to be abundantly blessed, those grandchildren indeed are blessings. I must say that the next session, building resilience through women's leadership will continue this important conversation that we've had, and it will begin after a very short break at 8:30. Thank you Mary.

**MARY ROBINSON:**

Thank you that was lovely. I wish we had longer but there we are.

# BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15  
8:30 AM

## **MICHELLE NUNN**

CEO, CARE USA @MICHELLENUNN

## **MODERATOR TASNEEM ESSOP**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK INTERNATIONAL  
@TASNEEMESSOP

## **TASNEEM ESSOP:**

Thank you so much for the invitation for me to speak and moderate this session with my friend, Michelle Nunn, who is the president and CEO of CARE USA. Today, we'll be talking about CARE's work around the world. As many of you might know CARE works around issues of poverty, saving lives, social justice and they've been doing this for many years. CARE has worked in over 100 countries around the world and has reached about 70 million people in the work that they do.

Today, Michelle and I are going to talk about building resilience through women's leadership. The topic of course that is extremely relevant during these times of multiple crises. I'm really excited Michelle, to have this conversation with you. Let us dive right in and please tell us a little bit more about CARE.

## **MICHELLE NUNN:**

Thank you, Tasneem. It's such an honor to be with you today and the extraordinary work that you do through Climate Action Network.

Let me tell you a little bit about CARE's history. It was a 75 years ago actually this year that a small group of Americans came together and they invented the CARE package. The idea that is now a part of our lexicon in so many ways, but back then meant actually sending surplus US Army rations then later food packages to European refugees. Over time we sent over 100 million care packages, but we've evolved into much more than that. Over time, we now work in 100 countries. As you said, our mission is to save lives and to defeat poverty. We do this by centering our work around women and girls, which is why I'm so glad to be talking to you today about this.

We put women and girls in the center because we know that there's no way of overcoming poverty until all people have equal rights and equal opportunities. We really feel like we are tackling the biggest challenges of our time. We know that the very most central challenge of our time and the biggest threat to progress in defeating poverty is climate change. It's why CARE is prioritizing combating climate change in our vision that we've set for ourselves for 2030. It's why we're releasing reports such as Evicted by Climate Change on the gendered impact of climate induced displacement, which we know is disproportionately affecting and impacting women and girls. We know that climate change is threatening our progress on poverty and means enormous setbacks.

Many of us read the goalkeepers report and we saw that we have in 25 weeks, lost up to 25 years of progress. Climate change will dwarf that and is already showing us that this regression is something we have to fight against. It's also showing us that we are creating and compounding humanitarian disasters all over the world. The majority of climate change evacuees are women and girls. That's in sum why we are so much putting climate at the center of our work and especially recognizing its impact on women and girls.

## **TASNEEM ESSOP:**

Thanks for that, Michelle. To help frame up the conversation a bit more, can you talk a little bit about gender justice and why women and girls, especially when we're thinking about climate change.

**MICHELLE NUNN:**

People don't always make that connection as you know Tasneem. I think it is really important to think about, why do we talk about women and girls and the gendered implications of the climate crisis?

To give you a couple of examples, we know that climate and climate disasters and climate challenges around the world have a disproportionate impact on those who are already inequitable in terms of their standing in societies. Women and girls are taking on the primary responsibility for children, for the elderly. We know that women carry out 76 percent of the total amount of work, which is over three times that of men. We also know that, for instance, when women are displaced in disasters and face the kinds of crisis that climate brings on that they face additional risks like gender-based violence, domestic violence, maternal mortality, forced marriage, and sexual trafficking. So that's one reason.

Second reason is that the social and cultural norms and barriers that already exist for women. They are less likely to be involved in decisions about how to prevent, mitigate, and cope with climate change. Including, for instance, when to leave their homes. Again, those norms make already difficult choices even more difficult.

Finally, if you think about it, women and girls do most of the subsistence farming in poor countries and they're the primary providers of food, of water, of fuel. We know that when climate change has its impact, those are some of the primary changes that families have to face. These are so important. We think about family nutrition, putting meals on the table, breastfeeding. Women are often the ones that are eating last. We know that these are disproportionate impacts, but we also know that women and girls when they are equipped with the tools of adapted and diversified crops and new forms of livelihood, that they can overcome and lead the way and adapting and overcoming some of the challenges of climate.

**TASNEEM ESSOP:**

Thanks Michelle. So CARE International and Climate Action Network International, the network that I lead, has a long history of collaboration. We were promoting climate justice and stood together shoulder to shoulder in our fights and in solidarity with especially vulnerable countries in pushing for the 1.5 degree target, especially to be part of the Paris agreement. We're very proud of that collaboration and our partnership in that. Especially for adaptation and action on adaptation and loss and damage and support for that.

One of the reasons that I'm particularly proud that we have CARE as a member of CAN is because CARE's one of those organizations that has consistently, pointedly recognized the intersection between gender justice and climate justice. You've mentioned that you've just adopted or endorsed the new vision 2030. Maybe you could talk a little bit more about that. It's really inspiring. And so please tell us a little bit more about that.

**MICHELLE NUNN:**

We have been so proud to stand in solidarity with CAN and with the extraordinary network that you are orchestrating and leading. I think it's one of many reasons why

we have seen the need to, again, lift up climate change in our own goals as we think about what we need to achieve and contribute over the next 10 years.

We know that with the current trajectory of climate change, we will not meet our sustainable development goals without both mitigation and adaptation. If you recognize that and if you also look at the enormity of the humanitarian crises and natural disasters that are before us, and you think about women and girls and the disproportionate impact that they experience. I don't think people realize, we've done some studies that show in the event of a disaster the risk of death for women and girls is 10 times higher than men.

Just one study in 1991, the cyclone disaster in Bangladesh, 90 percent of the people who lost their lives were women and girls. We know though that women and girls are on the front lines of combating climate change. I know that Mary Robinson spoke eloquently to this. We know that when we invest in women and girls, that we can actually affect both mitigation and adaptation around climate change.

Many of you all will have read *Project Drawdown*. You know that it was noted that if we invest in girl's education and family planning and combine those two, it becomes the second most powerful solution for mitigating climate change. If you think about adaptation, we have to be able to invest in women as frontline farmers, providers of food and frontline community organizers of change. It's why CARE has chosen our 2030 goal which is 25 million poor and marginalized people, particularly women and girls, have strengthened their resilience and their adaptive capacities to the effects of climate change and that they're also contributing to the energy transition. That's one of the very big mega goals that we're embracing as part of our vision for the next 10 years.

**TASNEEM ESSOP:**

25 million people within this decade is a huge goal to set. I'm sure with all of your work and of course support from others, I'm certain you're going to achieve that. But it's still very hard to imagine. So it would be really good to hear some of your thinking in terms of how you see that materializing.

**MICHELLE NUNN:**

Yeah. Well I think it's hard, when we talk about climate change it can be so large and feel so difficult to tackle. When you talk about millions of people, maybe we'll just bring it down and I want to share with you all a video of Maria Raquel Vasquez, who is a leader with Madre Tierra of Guatemalan Civil Society Organization, we're CARE partners. I think she, through her story, will tell you a bit about the impacts of climate on women, but also their power as change agents to do something powerful about it.

So pretty powerful. I think we can see the extraordinary resiliency. When we were talking Tasneem, before this, you talked about the importance of investing in grassroots actors. I think we see that as being one of the essential dimensions of the challenges ahead. Maybe you could speak a little bit to that.

**TASNEEM ESSOP:**

Yeah. Absolutely. One could recognize that even with a small investment, especially in grassroots based actions, and especially with women, the returns are immense and the impact is just so immense. Thanks for that and for sharing that video, Michelle.

CAN is one of the largest global networks of environmental civil society. We are focusing on transformational change and working for transformational change that essentially addresses the climate, the gender, and the racial and social injustices that we face. In fact, with COVID-19 with a pandemic, those fault lines in our economies and in our society has been made so visible. What you see cannot be unseen.

With that, working and addressing the intersectionality between all of these is a critical part of our work now. Especially the kind of COVID recovery plans that governments are putting in place. We're working to ensure that those recovery plans actually talk to these issues and addresses these crises and particularly the building of resilience that can deal with these multiple crises that we've had. Not just one crisis, but of course you've spoken very eloquently about how they're all interconnected. That's a big focus of CAN.

Then secondly, we cannot strive to bring transformational change in the world if our own organizations are not also stepping up to the plate and transforming ourselves. There's also a very big internal process of transformation in our network right now, especially to address racial and gender discrimination in any forms and actually look at shifting power and resources to address the discrepancy in that kind of power imbalances that we experience.

That's pretty much what we're doing in addition to everything else as a network. I'd like to hear from you, Michelle, what you would think the kind of contribution that a group like this could make to building resilience and building resilience through women leadership. What are your thoughts on this?

**MICHELLE NUNN:**

Well, I think you said it so powerfully, that we are seeing the intersection of racial, gender, economic, social justice, and injustice and that we must act upon it and that we have a moral imperative. Especially those countries, those companies, those individuals whose prosperity was built on carbon intensive industries. As you also said, I think we can see a disproportionate impact in terms of the investment that we make in women and girls. Again, foundational investment around gender equality, the capacity to ensure that women and girls have the tools that they need to help families and communities adapt, but also as change agents in the broader conversation on the front lines. We know that it will cost resources and investment and we also know that failing to do so will be even more costly.

As we look at the global commission on adaptation and a trillion dollar opportunity that we must pursue, and we must do it at the same time that we're limiting global warming. I think, again, investing in women and girls is one of the most essential bets that we can make. We know it's very simple. We can't address the biggest challenge of our time without the full equality and capacity of half of our population.

I just look at the backdrop of our California fires. You can imagine, we can all see viscerally the devastation that is happening. Then think about that kind of devastation in the poorest communities around the world and what that will mean in terms of people paying not only with property damage, but also with their lives.

We have a moral obligation and we have a practical imperative to equip the frontline activists, the women like Maria, the women that you work with, the civil society

leaders that you work with, Tasneem, and to really ensure that we are taking an intersectional approach and that we're investing at a foundational level for gender equality. To ensure that we are lifting up women as change makers, as leaders and problem solvers at the same time that we're dealing with the disproportionate impact that climate is having on women and girls. It is an urgent question. I guess our call to action for this group is to take the inspiration and the calls to action that you will hear over the next couple of days, and to turn that into meaningful, catalytic investment and action.

**TASNEEM ESSOP:**

Thank you. Thanks very much, Michelle, for that call to action. Thank you very much for sharing your thoughts and case work about women at building resilience through women's leadership. In closing, and thanks again Michelle, it was great sharing a platform with you.

**MICHELLE NUNN:**

You too.

**TASNEEM ESSOP:**

Looking forward to doing this with you again. In closing, just to tell everybody that the next session, Ensuring Human Rights for Climate Refugees, will continue this important conversation that we've just had. We'll begin just after a short break at 9:00 AM Pacific time. Thanks again. Thanks Michelle. Thanks everyone.

**MICHELLE NUNN:**

Thanks Tasneem for all of your great leadership. Thank you. Take care.

# ENSURING HUMAN RIGHTS FOR CLIMATE REFUGEES

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15  
9:00 AM

## **MAXINE BURKETT**

CO-FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE INSTITUTE FOR CLIMATE AND PEACE @CLIMATEANDPEACE

## **AMALI TOWER**

FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CLIMATE REFUGEES @TOWERAMALI

## **MODERATOR STEVE TRENT**

CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOUNDATION @STEVENTRENT

## **STEVE TRENT:**

Welcome, everyone. It is a pleasure to have you with us, and my thanks to the organizers at the Global Philanthropy Forum for arranging these three days of truly important discussion. My name is Steve Trent and I'm the co-founder and executive director of the Environmental Justice Foundation. I've worked in the intersection of the environment and human rights for over 30 years conducting research, field investigations, and high level advocacy for environmental justice.

It's my pleasure to be your moderator today and alongside me we are very privileged to have two internationally recognized, highly experienced leaders in the field of climate research and policy. First, let me introduce Maxine Burkett, who is co-founder and executive director at the Institute for Climate and Peace. Maxine is also professor of law at the William S. Richardson Law School in the University of Hawaii and a global fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. She is an expert in climate change law and policy with a specific focus in climate justice, climate induced migration, climate change peace and conflict. Maxine, thank you so much for being with us today.

We are also very fortunate to have with us Amali Tower, founder and executive director of the non-profit Climate Refugees. Amali has worked internationally over the past 15 years to promote the protection of refugees and forcibly displaced persons in a variety of contexts, including in refugee resettlement, protection, evaluation, and research with the UN Refugee Agency in Kenya and Jordan, various NGOs throughout Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and the United States. Amali, thank you so much for joining us in this discussion.

Central to my task today is to present introductory remarks to frame our debate. In doing this, I will outline key issues surrounding global heating and environmental justice as these relate to the forced migration of people, presenting each as a core proposal for action. But first, I feel it is important to outline the emergency within which our discussion takes place.

Humanity is facing a planetary crisis that is unprecedented and which will impact all areas of our lives, curtailing basic freedoms and rights, eroding our ability to feed, clothe, and educate ourselves, undermining economic development and poverty reduction, human health, education, gender, child rights, among much else. Climate change will fundamentally limit our ability to reach any of the sustainable devoted goals.

For many, it will take away the basics necessary for survival. Climate change is a threat multiplier and it will act in this way across all sectors, all societies, and all geographies, and how we approach this central issue of environmental justice will either prevent or cause further war and conflict, lead to greater equality or inequality between and within nations. It will determine our future, not just as communities or nation states, but as a species.

For many years, I've watched as much of the wealthy devoted world has somehow viewed climate change as over there and in the future. Perhaps finally that is changing in societies across the world, rich and poor are increasingly first hand witnesses to the impacts of global heating. This month, devastating flux in Sudan have displaced over half a million with more than 100,000 farms and homes destroyed. Hunger will drive many to join the estimated 3 million Sudanese displaced internally and across borders.



Along with much of the Western world, I have watched in horror as the fires in California, fueled by our heating climate, have burned over 4.6 million acres so far in 2020 with over 500,000 people being forced from their homes, and at least 35 dead with dozens more missing. Maria, Ida, Irma, Harvey, Katrina, Kenneth, a litany of names of increasingly destructive hurricanes and cyclones and it's fitting that they're given human names. This crisis is ours to claim.

These human stories are unfolding against a backdrop of stark facts. The average temperatures over the last decade, 2010 to 2019 were the highest on record. The current atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases are unprecedented in the last 800,000 years. EJF's work with its local partners has enabled us to document some of the human consequences of this, gathering accounts of damning impacts from low-lying countries such as Bangladesh, small island development states such as Papua New Guinea and the Maldives, and arid or semi-arid regions such as Mali and the other countries in the Sahel.

In each of these geographies, we have documented a growing number of people forced from their homes by extreme weather, damned by too much water, and in many too little, and these trends are accelerating. Globally since 2008, we have seen an average of around 21.2 million people forced from their homes every year by extreme weather. 58,000 each day, 41 for each minute, and this does not account for those forced out by slow onset weather events.

Now, we have some studies that say by 2060 an estimated 1.4 billion people could be forced to leave their homes. To date, there are few cases where climate is the sole factor in migration, but as I have already said, climate change is a threat multiplier. This means that the impacts of climate change are overwhelmingly experienced first and worst where exposure to threats coincides with populations dependent on the natural environment for their livelihood in poorer nations and in geographies where governance is weak and existing conflicts and stresses are manifest.

And, this is why 95 percent of displacement has taken place in the developing world, along with 99 percent of all weather related deaths. Yet, we must remember the world's 50 least developed countries have together contributed less than 1 percent of global anthropogenic carbon emissions and have benefited the least from our addiction to carbon and it is in this context that we can clearly see that climate change is both a global existential threat, but also a profoundly important issue of environmental justice.

So, just how should we view this? Where and what are the answers? Well for EJF, these unquestionably lie in global cooperation, compassion, and good governance. International agreements may be a blunt tool, but what is often a complex and multifaceted situation on the ground. However, they can be a powerful force for good, and the speed of the climate crisis means that such coordinated action able to deliver a rules based response is urgently needed.

Those displaced by the climate crisis are falling through the cracks in our international legal system. International legal frameworks governing migration and refugee rights do not have legal categories, which reflect the new reality of climate induced forced migration. It is true that they are not refugees in the most widely recognized sense of the word since they are not fleeing persecution, war, or violence, but they are fleeing the destruction of their homes and livelihoods through no fault of their own.

Climate refugees need legal recognition. Their status in plight must be clearly defined. Without such definition, how is it possible to craft a coordinated, just, and effective international response. We are beginning to see some progress towards a new framework, which recognizes the links between climate change, conflict, and migration. The 2018 Global Compact on Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees both acknowledged climate induced displacement in their language, but these agreements are not legally binding and do not represent a forceful definition or confer rights to people displaced by the climate emergency.

The Global Compact is a soft power tool, yet despite this light touch, several countries have withdrawn, including the USA, Australia, Austria, Chile, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland, among others. These documents represent a starting point to the international conversation on climate refugees, but vastly more political commitment is needed.

EJF believes that there is an urgent need for an unambiguous, legally binding agreement to protect those forced from their homes by global heating, and this must be pursued as a new agreement, entirely outside the scope of the 1951 convention, recognizing this EJF has commissioned international legal firm Linklaters to create an initial high level draft and we have this to inform discussion.

This work may seem arcane, distant, and disconnected from the harsh reality of life as a refugee, but it is essential. Far more time, energy, effort, and money needs to be applied to this kind of work. Collectively, we must answer the many outstanding question, not least, what makes someone a climate refugee? What is the immediacy of danger required? What obligations do those nations that have contributed the most to global heating have for those that have contributed the least?

Any international agreement must recognize the complex and multifaceted nature of the climate crisis and its related societal threats. It must fully engage with the role of global heating as a threat multiplier. Political leaders must also resist the temptation to buy small amounts of time by sending people to places that are only temporary, deferring cost on long-term solutions. Any agreement would need to engage and secure nations of sovereignty, cultural identity, alongside the economic, social, and environmental needs of forced migrants.

Yes, many, and for now we can still say most climate displaced people will stay within national boundaries, but in the future this is not the case as the Sahel burns, as small islands sink and disappear, as other low-lying nations are submerged, where will they go? They will have no option, but to cross national boundaries. They will be refugees.

So to conclude my opening marks, before we will show a short film we've produced specially for this panel. I just want to say climate change has a human face. Now, imagine that face to be your wife or husband, your father or mother, daughter or son, your friends or neighbors. If they were forced from their home, forced into a foreign territory, what response would you wish for them? For me, the simplest question we have today, and our main job is to answer that and to give answers that will satisfy us and will interest and engage all those who are joining this conversation. So, I'd now like to show a short film, as I said, that we've cut specially for this event before returning to our speakers.

\*Video Plays\*

**STEVE TRENT:**

I'd like to very quickly involve our expert guests here, and if you would allow me to ask each of you, perhaps beginning with Maxine because you're at the top of my screen, the simple question to give your framing. What do you believe needs to be done regarding the issue of forced migration, environmentally forced migration, climate refugees, call it what you will? And then, if I can add a second question to that, what do you believe can be done, recognizing the imperfect world that we live in, Maxine?

**MAXINE BURKETT:**

Thank you so much. First, it's a pleasure to be here and to be joining all of you on this panel. This is obviously a very urgent conversation and I think the question itself suggests some of the dire need here, which is, what are we calling this? What is the phenomena and how do we capture it in a way that is both true to the complexity, but doesn't suggest a level of overwhelm that immobilizes?

The way I like to think about climate induced migration or climate migration, which is generally what I call it, is that it is a function of the place where you are from. Where you have deep cultural ties, often where your ancestors are buried, where your family networks have developed over generations, and it is no longer able to support your livelihoods. And so much of what we're doing right now in terms of climate migration is thinking about the triggers, thinking about the places where people will be coming from, how they will move, and their status in transit.

A lot of what we need to also be thinking about is how people can stay in those places that they care so deeply about. I do think you're right in noting that in the future we are going to be talking about a lot of cross border migration. At the moment, this is a profoundly local kind of phenomenon for the most part, and I think we need to better understand some of the cultural and psychosocial factors that come into decision making around whether or not to stay or to go.

It's also important to recognize that sometimes the migration itself, the ability to move, if it's not the result of an acute incident like a major storm or flood, is really very much determined by your capacity to get a ticket out. In some ways when you're seeing projections, the worst of the worst, the situations that are the most dire, the places and individuals who have the fewest resources to actually make that move are trapped in place and that decision to stay in place should be a decision. It shouldn't be a function of circumstances in which you actually see projections in which the countries that seem to be in the hot spot, there's actually reduced migration because the capacity to leave is not available to them.

The other thing I'll say before pausing is to just describe that when we talk about the receiving communities, the places that people are going, those communities also need to be kept in mind and supported, and that's important because we want to encourage a spirit of welcome, not one of fear, and we want to acknowledge the fact that changes to any environment, whether it's because of a new residence, because of environmental stressors that will not spare any community, need to be kept in mind as we're planning how we're supporting the host or receiving communities in addition to obviously a big part of the conversation we're having now, which is what are the rights of those who are moving while they're in transit, and certainly when they relocate and resettle.

**STEVE TRENT:**

Thank you very much for that, insightful. Can I quickly ask, Amali, would you like to answer the same question to get your vision and framing?

**AMALI TOWER:**

I think one of the things that tends to be underrepresented here is the voice of potentially impacted communities and actually impacted communities now. They're really not part of the conversation at all. And that runs the gamut from terminology, to framework, to solutions, and whether that's going to be a choice within opportunities that uphold dignity, that uphold resilience.

Migration is very much a choice and a right. It's a right that we're meant to be upholding. It's a fundamental human right that we should be providing safe pathways for. A lot of what we're seeing takes place in a refugee context and displacement context, and now in a climate context. What we have been seeing take place are fundamental breakdowns in those safe pathways. A lot of that also has to be encapsulated in this conversation because that is also very much at stake as far as an increasing factor here.

You can't have a conversation that doesn't take into account speaking to the impacted communities. By that I also mean this whole conversation about terminology. There's been a lot of conversation for example about those saying, "We don't want to be designated as refugees. We don't want to be even termed this way." I think it's very interesting to unpack what exactly was said, as this was said at the end of a very long list of statements.

It was said because here are all the things that we would like to see richer countries do, receiving countries potentially do, countries that could step up with climate finance, that could assist with adaptation and resiliency. It was a whole host of options and things that needed to be done to actually uphold rights, protection, dignity, safe pathways. When all of those things failed, if and when they failed, then we could talk about resettlement, we could talk about terminology, we could even discuss whether they were refugees, and I think that that tends to get overlooked when we jump right to the end of the conversation, which is that they didn't want to be called refugees.

That's actually not the whole statement, and one of the things that I think we need to unpack from that is that there's a whole lot of dignity and resiliency in the term refugee that we need to take back. So, by talking to communities, that's just two examples of what's at stake. I think that we're not really taking stock there.

**STEVE TRENT:**

Thank you very much, Amali. So, as I might've expected, immediately we are already trying to carve away through a huge issue, and we could discuss any one of the points that both of you have made for the rest of the time we have, but what I'm going to do is two things. First, I want to speak to the audience and say, if you have any questions, please ask them because we want to hear from you and our experts want to be able to answer you rather than me. But before we get to those questions, can I ask one other question? It is challenging, I know it is, but I think we need to look at it.

In the context of these estimates, 1.2 billion, 1.4 billion, 1.6 billion, take your pick, we are talking vast numbers and I think it is true to say once they completely recognize what you say, Maxine, about receiving communities and those communities that are affected, there will be this huge trans-boundary migration. So, my question again in the same order if you'll allow me, what can the international community do to address this rather than just allow the wave of human suffering to come and then be reactive to it? Is there anything we can do in a proactive measure that can help this situation?

**MAXINE BURKETT:**

Great question. The numbers are dizzying, as you mentioned there's something between 1.2 and 1.4 billion people by 2050, 2060 to pick your year and one of the difficulties is that we're talking about a timeframe in which there's a lot of fluidity and flow. It's not that we're seeing that by 2060 presumably, 1.4 billion people will all of a sudden get up and move. We're talking about a fairly dynamic process over the next several decades and in fact, what we know now is that it is mostly temporary, local, and it's in the Global South.

So, when I'm talking about receiving communities, I'm mostly thinking of the vast number of receiving communities right now, which are already profoundly stressed communities, profoundly over-extracted communities in places that are supporting the over-consumption of wealthy countries. And so, I don't want us to... I think what the numbers do is that they capture the gravity and magnitude of the issue. They beg for notice and they beg for a better understanding about how people make that decision at a level that is meaningful for our engagements.

I do worry that we do two things when we use the large numbers. One is that the antennae of the security infrastructure does go up, and we think more about protection, especially in the Global North, and about the enabling of sound migration supported primarily the Global South, and I mention this because the fact that it's mostly internal displacement right now means that there's a different kind of way of engagement that we need to consider and it's not necessarily through international instruments, although that will be important, it's recognizing the failures in the current instruments.

Instead of building new infrastructure, what about the current infrastructure is failing? There's a lot, especially in international law. And so, we do have the opportunity in due time, relevant in terms of how little time we have to actually audit the current infrastructure that we have for supporting communities in the Global South for the ways of injecting support, for how we give country-level support, how we get to communities. There are organizations like the Global Greengrants Fund that I serve on the board of that is an excellent example of how one can get to a community level manner of support and thinking about it creatively in spite of the infrastructure that we have currently.

The last thing I'll say is that from my conversations, it is really difficult to know what 2060 is going to look like to be perfectly honest. What we're doing here is a risk assessment and I think we all agree on this side. What is absolutely true is that this is a one-sided risk. It's a question of how bad, not a question of if. And so, if this is the risk assessment, we can at least say we know that it's going to be a big problem, but we also know that 2060 is completely unknown at this point because there are factors that we have not even taken into account that we see playing out right now in 2020.

I was just talking to my colleagues about giving lectures about climate migration in 2007 and saying by 2020 we'll see this, and there are factors that we didn't even take into account about the current state that we're seeing right now. After Hurricane Laura it was actually the absence, in a wealthy country, of lack of air conditioning that was causing people to either live or to have casualties that were not able to be adapted to. So, what I encourage is that we understand that these numbers are important indicators of the speed and complexity of the issue, but that we approach it from a position of understanding what are the barriers to our success right now and actually addressing those with great intention.

**STEVE TRENT:**

Thank you very much. So, just to the audience, if you would submit questions through the chat box on the conference platform, please do. Amali, your vision, your response to the same question?

**AMALI TOWER:**

My thoughts on projections, I totally agree with so much of what Maxine said. There's a lot of talk on projections and to some unfortunate degree, it gets a lot of media buzz to say by 2050, 2060 1.2 and this, that, and the other. And, that can actually really tend to, for lack of a better term, hijack the story. What you often see come forth from that is that Western countries, namely North America and Europe, are going to be on the receiving end of billions of migrants, refugees. The terminology is always mixed because we don't know what to call climate displaced people, people don't even know the difference between IDP, migrant, or refugee.

There's a lot of work we need to do on that front alone, but that aside, I take real exception to the fact that that becomes the story. When right now in the refugee context, it is the developing world that has for generations hosted all the refugees just about and does so while tackling poverty and gross underdevelopment, and does so for generations on end.

When we're talking about climate displacement and what we're looking at in terms of projections, the data will tell you that people generally, if they do cross borders, tend to cross borders into neighboring countries. For us to have these grand projections that say that people are going to go over into Europe and North America doesn't exactly gel with what we already know is happening in the refugee context.

Why is that so? Because it costs a lot of money to travel and refugees don't have that kind of money. So, anybody who does actually cross a border and leave their country does so because they have just a little bit more means. That doesn't make them rich, even though the West likes to portray that. That just makes them have a one-time opportunity perhaps. That aside, whether someone is displaced internally or across borders does not change their need for protection or rights and the guiding principles on internal displacement quite adequately demonstrates that. There's a reason the international community had to come up with principles that protect people who are internally displaced in conflict, in violence, even though those are sovereign citizens of the country in which they are already displaced.

So, whether someone's displaced internally or across borders, I think it really does show that that's really not the issue in terms of our capacity to fail to meet people's

needs. Migration isn't a certainty. Our inaction as the international community makes it a certainty. There's a lot we could do right now in terms of climate action and I'm talking about migration as a result of climate change. That's not a certainty, and I think finally I'll just say regarding projections is that it's not about being an alarmist about the numbers because that's often the criticism.

I don't think it's about being an alarmist about the numbers, I think it's about being an alarmist about those protection gaps and those potential for gross rights violations. That's the missing element here that is very often not talked about and when we talk about this issue. It's so lacking a human rights framework that it's grossly to our detriment. It's one of the reasons why we're not really advanced in the conversation and why we're sort of stuck on terminology and frameworks and a climate security framework is really as far as it tends to go and that really needs to change.

#### **STEVE TRENT:**

Thank you very much. I think it's really interesting to see. There's a lot of agreement coming from two quite different perspectives, and if I can, I share much of what you're saying. I do think this issue needs to be framed in the context of environmental justice, a bigger picture of environmental justice. I think the human rights agenda has not even begun to be touched upon yet. So, we do actually have a question from the audience and having asked them, I'd like to put that to you both. It's quite specific and it says, "Can we say that people in Sahel, in Africa, should be regarded as climate refugees as they migrate to southern territories?" And, if we reverse the order perhaps with you first, Amali?

#### **AMALI TOWER:**

Well, it kind of depends on the context of the question. Now, the Kampala Accords, which the continent of Africa has adopted, are essentially the guiding principles on internal displacement that the continent accepted as saying that anybody in any African state that's displaced, that crossed a border into another African state, would be afforded a whole suite of protections, a whole suite of rights that will basically carry from one African state to the next. That's a bit broad, but for the purposes of our conversation, let's leave it there.

So, to some degree, while that doesn't afford someone refugee status, it certainly does a lot more than we have in a lot of other contexts of transferring rights while someone is moving across borders and that is a wonderful progression of exactly what we're talking about here. In the context and the framework of what we have now, I don't think one could say that they're a refugee. I don't know whichever Sahelian country this is or whichever receiving country might consider them refugees, legally that is, but it doesn't really change the fact that, like I said, because of the Kampala Accords, they still have a vast degree of rights and protections.

#### **STEVE TRENT:**

Thank you, Amali. So, we have another question, let's go to you, Maxine. Here somebody is asking, "What is the responsibility of international companies in the refugee crisis and how do we involve them in the research of the solutions?"

#### **MAXINE BURKETT:**

Thank you for that question. Just a quick addendum to what Amali said, which is that when we are talking about the rights of anyone, talking about the duties and obligations is also really important. Just to reinforce what's been said, that's where sometimes I think we are thinner on our sort of articulation of what are your duties in order to meet the rights of individuals and communities because human rights are really individually based, when in fact most people see themselves in a complex web of community with family.

With respect to international companies, this is actually a great question. As I've said, my sort of key takeaway is that a lot of times we're focusing on what more can we do versus what we are doing now that we can do less of. I think international corporations have a lot of opportunity to really reflect on what they're doing now that is creating an enabling environment, but not an enabling environment for the things that we like to see, but for the stressors that are causing some background environment degradation that's making adaptation much more difficult.

This is just one angle of one approach that you could consider, but my encouragement of the international companies, of philanthropic ventures, is to think about what it is that we're supporting now that's actually having the effect of making people more vulnerable. And not stripping agency, but recognizing the ways in which extraction, support of over-consumption in the Global North, a supportive monoculture supportive of careers and opportunities in places, particularly in the Global South, that are not allowing them to maintain a diversified livelihood that would actually be in the short to medium term much more advantageous if they are looking at the kinds of acute and long-term stressors that are happening in those spaces.

Obviously, there are opportunities to support financially and to make sure that that funding gets on the ground, but I think there's a good degree of soul searching that needs to happen in these major organizations and companies about, what are we doing that's actually creating an environment that makes it far more difficult for people to do well in the places that they are, and at the same time, accelerating the impacts of climate change and climate change itself?

#### **STEVE TRENT:**

Thank you very much. Now, we have unfortunately just three minutes left. So, I'm going to ask one question, which maybe will take us to the end, and it's probably a version of something I've already asked, but I think it's useful for the purposes of this meeting. What single request do you put to philanthropists? Call it what you will, the big idea, the one action, frame it how you like, what message would you like the audience to take away today for you? And, maybe again if I could start with you, Amali?

#### **AMALI TOWER:**

I think I have to stand by what I said earlier, which is that I see an overabundance of discussion about projections and securitization, borderize elements to this particular niche part of climate change and the lens on how climate displacement impacts which countries? Whether that's the intent or not doesn't change the fact that that is the perception, that is the way it's framed in terms of results. If we're going to change

that perspective, if we want to add another voice to the conversation, then I think we need to fund data and advocacy research and that's not just me talking, Amali Tower or Climate Refugees, that's the UN Security Council talking, that is the UN Global Compact for Migration talking.

I think the Global Compact for Refugees might also have commentary that states that, but certainly the Global Compact for Migration does. A whole host of UN resolutions have supported that, that there is a lack of data in understanding what are the links and understanding how exactly climate change impacts human mobility.

Let me leave it at that. That's all that needs to be said and you get that from the voices of the impacted communities.

**STEVE TRENT:**

Very good, so if I could close with one comment that's taken from you both, I think it's don't just ask what can be done, but ask what we can stop doing and we need support for funding, for data research, and advocacy research. I'd just like to say thank you all very much, to Maxine and Amali for being such interesting and valuable participants.

**AMALI TOWER:**

Thank you so much.

**MAXINE BURKETT:**

Thank you, Steve. Thank you, Amali. It's been a pleasure.



## A GREEN RECOVERY: BUILDING BACK BETTER

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15  
11:30 AM

**RAJIV SHAH**  
PRESIDENT, ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

**ANDREW STEER**  
CEO, WORLD RESOURCE INSTITUTE

**MODERATOR HAL HARVEY**  
CEO, ENERGY INNOVATION @HAL\_HARVEY

### HAL HARVEY:

Greetings, all. My name is Hal Harvey, and I'm delighted to welcome our two guests for this section of the Global Philanthropy Forum. Raj Shah is the president of the Rockefeller Foundation and Andrew Steer is the President or the CEO of World Resources Institute. The title of our session right now is Building Back Better, which is certainly something we need to do, and in California, where we are suffering smoky skies partly as a result of climate change. Our guests today have extraordinary, really, unmatched experience in making real-world things happen. Both of them have deep backgrounds in philanthropy, but also have worked in international development for decades. Raj Shah ran USAID under the Obama administration. Andrew ran DFID, the British bilateral aid agency. And they have extensive programs in their current positions all over the world so we're in for a rich conversation.

Just a word about building back better. There are these inflection points in countries' histories where they make choices that last for decades or even hundreds of years. In the United States we've had the Bonneville Power Administration and rural electrification, the interstate highway system under Eisenhower, a series of huge national choices that created our current character. And the world's in for a bunch of these right now, as Europe gears up for a trillion dollar stimulus bill, as China's writing its 14th five-year plan and as the United States sporadically and episodically makes its way towards some serious commitments as well.

So there are opportunities just in those three examples, but certainly beyond that around the world to take this moment and do something really seriously important with it. I've asked our two fantastic speakers to focus, especially on real world change at scale. So to make sure that we do not squander this moment, that we don't spend it on what I would call decorative policies, but instead get to the heart of the matter we're going to keep this rat-a-tat speed style, lots of Q and A. And I've asked the audience to submit questions in your chat as well, but let me begin with you, Andrew. What's at stake here. What are the choices that we're confronted with as we proceed?

### ANDREW STEER:

Well, the stakes are extremely high. And thank you Hal and thanks so much for the forum, for bringing together these interesting ideas and welcome to everybody. It's a privilege to be here. The stakes are extremely high. I mean, we now know, for example, on climate change that unless we really get serious, this decade, it's sort of game over. The stakes are unbelievably high. At the same time, we have the worst crisis that we've had both in health and in economics for the last hundred years and that's made us all realize that actually we're not as safe as we thought.

We're much more vulnerable than we thought, and we need to do something about it. We can't rely on our governments the way we thought we could to protect us. At the same time, we've got between 10 and \$20 trillion of public money that will be used to reboot the world economy. And obviously it would be terribly sad if we use that money to rebuild yesterday's economy. We need to build tomorrow's economy and here's the point. It would be tempting for philanthropists to think my goodness me with 10 to \$20 trillion at stake. I mean, what could we do? I mean, we have maybe millions but not trillions. And I guess what I would like to discuss today is how relatively small amounts of funding, not too small, but relatively small amounts can have an unbelievable leverage effect. And that's what we should be talking about.

**HAL HARVEY:**

Well, let's make that our charge. Let me ask a question for each of you. I'll start with you Andrew, since you posed the question and then turn to Raj, can you give a tangible example of where such a focused investment could have incredible leverage?

**ANDREW STEER:**

Oh, I mean, where to begin. On the energy side, we now know that the money is waiting on the sidelines. That's kind of what Raj is doing for example. We're missing the pieces in the middle. It makes full economic sense, but quite frankly, a country like Vietnam or a country like Indonesia still has so many vested interests. We need to demonstrate the economics and the finance that can't be done outside of grant financing and to demonstrate that actually the economy in the 2020s, the economy in the 2030s, will be better if we do it the new way.

**HAL HARVEY:**

Yep. Raj, how would you jump in on that question?

**RAJIV SHAH:**

Well, Hal thank you for having me, and Andrew, it's great to be with you as always. The work that both of you do is so important so I'm just thrilled to be here. At the Rockefeller Foundation, we just believe we are, as you point out, in this extraordinary inflection point. I've had the great opportunity to dedicate much of my professional career to the fight against global poverty and I feel like we've been watching a billion people come out of poverty for the last decades. The World Bank now estimates that 500 million will be pushed back into poverty over the course of the next decade due to COVID-19. And I think you could make a similar statement about gender equity and inequality, about racial disparity, about macro economic capacity to provide fiscal and stimulus policy support, and ultimately, about climate change and its impacts that COVID has unmasked a massive amount of inequity in the world and it is exacerbating it.

So the question is, what can we do? I'm with Andrew, I think we need large scale public private partnerships that are actionable, big, and that inspire some hope in the future. I feel fortunate that this past November, I got to be in Bihar, India before we stopped traveling and actually helped launch a partnership between Rockefeller and Tata Power to build 10,000 rural mini grids. These are solar installations with battery backup.

They use artificial intelligence for remote management, smart meters to charge rural customers and we've now been serving about half a million people. This will help us together serve 10 million people and bring them productive, reliable electricity, so they can be productive, create jobs, have jobs, change their communities and do it all in an entirely clean format. That's one example. We need thousands, millions, of those types of examples at that type of scale. The good news is if you look all in on what that requires, the bulk of the financing for that is entirely commercial. Some of it required a lot of philanthropic support years ago, and some of it requires some government subsidy today, but it is a true mix of capital to get those kinds of outcomes. And I suspect, and I know how this has been your calling, I suspect that we

have to build those kinds of partnerships by better informed policy responses to the COVID recovery.

**HAL HARVEY:**

Yep. You didn't mention the word, but you're discussing a leapfrog development strategy. Somebody who's getting their first phone would never string copper wire to make it used and this is now happening in the energy space. So if it's done well, and if one follows learning curves, there's a possibility of a snowball effect and so you're creating the first few rolls of the snowball. I'm not sure that's the app analogy for India, but let's go with it. What are the other leapfrog opportunities that we have? Back to the theme of building back better, where can we collectively as philanthropists, but also citizens of this world, envision skipping some of the dirty stages of development?

**RAJIV SHAH:**

Well, I'll jump in and I'm sure Andrew can add to this. I mean, I think energy infrastructure is the big obvious one. And frankly, we also know that sort of green and distributed renewable energy is probably our best hope now to reach the two billion people who live without access to reliable, productive power, 800 million without any real access to power, and 1.2 billion with power. But it's not reliable enough to sort of grow your community and build economic viability so I think distributed, renewable energy, energy storage, all that goes with that is one example.

I think we see it in healthcare where we see predictive modeling and app based tools and artificial intelligence based diagnostics, allowing community health workers who are reaching very poor and vulnerable communities and often are women and preferentially reach women and mothers. All of a sudden they now can be empowered with tools and technology and knowledge and behavior change practices that can have far more impact than what we've seen in the past. It gives us a chance to ensure that in the future six million kids don't die of simple diseases and people are protected from infectious disease threats, like COVID-19.

I think in food we see something very similar. There is absolutely no need for people that are just coming up the protein curve now to fall prey to a food system that is entirely industrial packed with added fats, sugars, and oils and deeply unhealthy, and frankly, the number one driver of chronic disease, especially diabetes and cardiovascular disease for much of the industrial world.

The Rockefeller Foundation just completed a food systems vision prize, where we highlighted multi-stakeholder visions of agricultural systems that are actually far more nutritious and far more sustainable simultaneously. And we just can't afford to repeat big industrial food systems that are both deeply unhealthy and horrible for the environment and for our climate so you can go across every industry I suspect and illustrate these. The challenge of course is what Andrew mentioned, is if the world approaches a recovery with the willingness to make investments in these new strategies, we can build back better. If we in fact do what we've always done, which is tempting and which frankly still dominates the current response, especially in a fragmented environment where people don't like working together anymore, we're going to have a really bad outcome.

**HAL HARVEY:**

Yep. For certain. Andrew, I'd ask you the same question, but first Raj. With the systemic mapping you've done on healthcare, are there places for other philanthropies to plug in? Would they benefit or be able to use your work?

**RAJIV SHAH:**

Well, absolutely. Rockefeller early on in the spring, we sort of advocated for an aggressive testing strategy and said that COVID was going to be with us for several years, even with vaccines at the level of efficacy of the major candidate vaccines. And so the only way to kind of avoid large scale shutdowns, which are deeply debilitating, especially to vulnerable people and women and girls, or to have lots of deaths is to test, test, test in a fast, reliable manner. We're starting to see those tests come online. These antigen screening tests, rapid PCR tests, pooling of PCR testing, and a host of other technologies, lateral flow essay tests that can be done at home without needing advanced equipment.

Those tools and technologies should be made available in particular to vulnerable communities in America and all around the world. We are actually partnering with the Skoll Foundation to accelerate access to those solutions in the United States and I'm really grateful for Jeff's strong leadership on pandemics. For many years, we could use so many other philanthropic collaborators and we would welcome people reaching out to us. We're working in the United States, we're working in India, where in states like Maharashtra, the testing positivity rate has just exceeded 20 percent. We're working in parts of Latin America and parts of Africa, throughout Africa, really on these types of solutions and we need more philanthropic partners for sure.

**HAL HARVEY:**

That's great. Andrew, back to you, examples of leapfrog development strategies that you think philanthropy can help stimulate?

**ANDREW STEER:**

Well, first, Raj, I must say listening to you, I mean, I hope everybody realizes you are a leading health expert because I mean, it's been fascinating listening as well as a leading agricultural expert. So there are lots of ways in which modern technology leapfrogs using big data and so on. All kinds of information systems where organizations like ours do a lot of remote sensing. We can now see basically every tree in the world as it falls almost. That means you can do things that you couldn't before and you can hold each other accountable. So there's a huge sort of technological advancement, but I'd like to also mention a different kind of building back better. Technology is really doing things differently. It's skating to where the puck will be, not where it is. So for example, even simple things like the way we design our cities. Our cities for the last hundred years have been designed actually for automobiles, not for people.

And if you look at some of the older European cities, it turns out they're more efficient than Houston, Texas, for example or Beijing, which have been designed after that. You think of Africa, it's going to have the biggest urbanization in the history of the world in the next 20 years. Decisions made in the next 20 years will affect Africa's

future for the next 300 years. And so it's a very small window of opportunity. There is a much better way. Investing in public transport is actually cheaper. It's more human, it's greener, it's healthier, it's more equal. It creates more jobs than building another ring road, another flyover and people that... So that's an example, if you like, it's not a new technology. Bicycle paths and so on.

And so to... I mean, just to support what Raj was saying, a totally different area of food, for example. If the emerging world starts eating beef and lamb, the way that the rich world does, there will be no Amazon left and we will have lost the battle of climate change. If all the cattle in the world got together and formed a nation, they would be now the second largest emitter of greenhouse gases just about equal to the United States. That's how damaging beef consumption and production is. We're not asking everyone to be a vegetarian. So what's the new technology? The new technology is actually moving towards a more plant rich diet that is healthier. It would for China, for example, they're very interested in this because it would save them billions of dollars in healthcare. And for all of us, it will give us healthier lives. That's another example, if you like it, the new technology, and if the emerging countries good leapfrog to where we now need to go, which is a more plant rich diet. There you go.

**HAL HARVEY:**

So I want to stick with this urban planning question for a second, because I agree with you. There's this old saying early footsteps cast long shadows. In fact, I learned that from one of your predecessors at the Rockefeller Foundation, 30 years ago. The layout of a city determines its energy patterns, its consumption patterns, but also its livability where their kids can walk to a park, where the people could walk at all or they have to be in a car. It creates a dividing line between those in cars and outside of cars. Can you tell me how a foundation would support an urban plan for a growing African city? Who can do that work? Who set up to do that work? How do you enter to that? It seems impossible. On the other hand, if you do it, the leverage is profound.

**ANDREW STEER:**

Well, one of the exciting things is there's a new generation of mayors around the world. There are organizations as you know, like C40 in Italy that are designed in order to move things in the greener the direction. But here's what's missing. And there are expert groups that can do it, including, and by the way, what Raj is doing and what some of the rest of us are doing. There are expert groups that actually are being demanded now by mayors and by national governments to say, "Hey, there is a better way." I mean, after 10 thousand years of civilization, is sitting in an automobile for three hours a day in Mexico City, is that the highest we can achieve? And if you're poor, you have to change buses four times, you have to get up, you leave your house before your children even get up in the morning and you get back after they...Why? Because it takes so long.

Is this the best we can do? And around the world, you've now got these mayors saying, no, actually we can do better. And citizens are saying they want better. And we know how to do it, but here's the thing. It takes quite a lot of planning and it also takes a huge amount of consultation with citizens. This requires that citizens understand the options. It really is possible in the political lifetime of a two-

term mayor to turn a city around, have more green spaces, more compact, more connected, more resilient. I mean Rockefeller's done an amazing job on resilience, for example. It is possible to turn it around, but it is not possible to do it on the very meager budgets of an overworked city government. And so absolutely. I mean, dollar for dollar, this has a huge payoff.

#### **HAL HARVEY:**

What you're talking about is getting into the DNA of the city and adjusting it before it's too late.

#### **ANDREW STEER:**

And like so many things that both of you have written about and talked about. It's about a matter of the heart. It's about what do citizens aspire to and for heaven's sake, I mean, we've not been heading in the right direction, have we?

#### **HAL HARVEY:**

So one of the diseases that political leaders fall prey to is doing more of tomorrow, what they did yesterday, because it's easy. And it's certainly easier to, if you're trying to do a rapid economic recovery. It's certainly easier to give money to existing industries, than new ones, right? And so one sees this in Vietnam where they're planning forty new coal-fired power plants. But my favorite words, when I speak with international leaders, contemplating such investments are stranded costs. Who's going to be left holding the bag when coal is no longer economical, which already is not economical, where it's exposed to market forces. In the United States, you do not want to be owning a coal plant or a coal mine nor in Europe. So Raj, let me turn to you. What's the way around this instinctive push or instinctive direction of yesterday's industries. And how do we make the non-status core industries prosper and let the stranded costs wither away?

#### **RAJIV SHAH:**

Collective action. I mean, I think the answer to that question is concerted collective multi-stakeholder action. You could have made the same statement about the vaccine industry in 1999 and the collective action of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization over 20 years. And over tens of billions of dollars transformed the human face of vaccination on this planet. You could have said the same thing about the HIV crisis in Africa in 2003 and four. Again, collective action changed the nature of it. A lot of times you need collective action because you just flat out need scale in order to drive down costs and make supply chains robust for our efforts to bring renewable solar mini grids, to the world's billion people who live in the dark, we need lots of low cost batteries. We need the right technical infrastructure, the right smart metering technology.

Those industries are not going to develop and supply a consumer facing industry that's doing 500 mini grids in one state in India. You need scale. You need scale to get the kind of solutions to work, and you only get that with concerted action. So I'd say my biggest fear right now is not that smart people like Andrew and yourselves and others don't have brilliant ideas for how to build back better, it's that we don't have a politics

right now that enables and calls for bold collective action. And that is really what we need at this level in order to recover in a way that has some sense of equity and justice and fairness and forward looking behavior embedded in every part of society. And so, you asked the question earlier, what can philanthropy do? The answer is not pay for it because, no philanthropy, even the biggest have the resources to do that.

But if we can inspire partnership, if we can inspire collective action. If we can take some risk out of the equation. If we can get people at the table together and say no matter what your politics or your backgrounds are or the industry you represent, can you be part of trying to put your thumb on the scale of justice in this moment? Then we will have done something worthwhile. And I think we try to take that mindset and approach in our work. I know you know Andrew, and you all do as well. And we just need to keep pushing away on that basic concept of we're all in this together.

#### **ANDREW STEER:**

Yeah, that's absolutely right. To give an example from, you mentioned Vietnam, for example, how we've got to sort of look for political opportunities. So you're right. I mean, Vietnam generates electricity. EBN is a state-owned company. Vinacomin is a state owned coal company. The financial system is also used to doing exactly the same thing. The data is growing, but actually it doesn't make any sense. How do you break that? Just having a conversation with the ministry of finance, like I used to do when I worked for the World Bank. It's good to do, but it's not enough. So here's what you do. And this is where philanthropy is doing this right now with our help and others. So what would change the mind of the Vietnamese policymakers? Well, it turns out that actually they really, really want modern industry around Ho Chi Minh, that's their Silicon Valley. And who's in Silicon Valley? All of the Silicon Valley companies from California and from India. They're all gathered around there.

All of those companies actually are starting to make commitments on their own to climate change to reduce their own emissions. So they need renewable energy. So what does a philanthropy do? And Raj, you're involved in this, I know, and others, like the SIF are involved in this. What you do is you then try and get these guys together from Silicon Valley, the Silicon Valley of Ho Chi Minh city. And you say, okay, you can help have a discussion with the government. You can help actually demand electrons that are renewable and don't come from coal. Then you start changing the entire calculus the government makes. And the minister of finance says, actually I do need... We do need to support this. And so you do... And that's an example of exactly what Raj is saying, which is collective action. There are no silver bullets when it comes to issues like climate change, it's a jigsaw puzzle and the pieces need to come down together. The private sector will always be, almost always be needed. Philanthropy is an absolutely essential piece of the jigsaw puzzle.

#### **HAL HARVEY:**

Let me mention an interesting example I just ran across. So there's a man Bill Weihl who purchased all of Google's clean energy, \$10 billion worth. And then he purchased all of Facebook's. He worked for them for a while. What he's doing now, he started something called ClimateVoice. And the idea is to get the employees of the tech companies to demand that their companies not only buy green energy, but take a policy position, a strong policy position on the future of this earth.

And the employees have tremendous leverage with the tech companies because they're hard to recruit and they're hard to train and you want to keep them happy and it's the right thing to do. So there may be an aborning force. It's a brand new group, driblets and drabs of money, just to start it up. This would be a place where small philanthropy could kick off a really substantial new force. And we need that force to your points. So let me ask one more question. I also like to open this up for audience questions. We've only got about five minutes left, but can you give an instance when you were at DFID or USAID when a philanthropy influenced your spending in a significant way?

**ANDREW STEER:**

Oh, oh yes. And actually Raj's guilty for this in part, because DFID, which is a British agency, was massively influenced by philanthropy, which was pushing the new... what was called International Finance Facility for Immunization, which Raj, I think you probably get more credit for than anybody else. And amazing technique, financial technique to raise money, to address the problem today. Because if you address it today, immunization, you won't have the problem tomorrow. And so that was one. And then what's called Gavi, which is again about, about immunization, and it radically changed the way we operated.

And I'll give you one more example. DFID put, I think a million dollars, under the influence of other philanthropists into something called Safaricom, which was a telecommunications company in Kenya. They had this crazy little idea, which was... No one thought it would work, but we called M-Pesa. As a result of that now hundreds of millions of Africans bypass the banking system, and they're doing financial transactions on their mobile phones. That's an example of a million dollars influenced by philanthropy. So, please engage. By the way, that was true what I said, Raj, right? You deserve all that credit. I hope.

**RAJIV SHAH:**

Well, I had a lot of collaborators, but I think the basic point is that a group of people could come together. They almost by definition had to be outside of the system to propose the immunization finance facility that we constructed together. And Gordon Brown was chancellor at the time. I think he and Videra had as much to do with inspiring us to think big about what's possible as anything else. But I guess the point I'd make Hal is that innovation, whether in financial innovation to reshape the global vaccine market and immunize millions of kids, technological innovations to bring digital banking and, and money transfers to people who didn't have real participation in the cash economy in Kenya, as Andrew just highlighted. Basic core biological and agricultural science innovations that have led to hundreds of new hybrid seeds being introduced across Africa, by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa.

And the core innovation, kind of 12 years in the makings that we could provide off-grid energy in a clean way to people that don't have it at 15, 20 cents a kilowatt hour down from maybe 85 cents a kilowatt hour, and do that in a manner that unlocks economic productivity. In addition to just household consumption benefits and does it without involvement from governments and utilities. Those are the kinds of innovations that I think philanthropy when it's at its best takes years of risk to put out there and then to make it accessible to everyone.

You have to have a real willingness to partner in these big collaborative engagements that represent collective action. And I would just ask your listeners here to think that way and to recognize that we are in this inflection point. That the next 18 months will define whether we lose or continue to make progress on decades of fight in terms of addressing extreme poverty around the world and will be fundamentally determinative as to whether we protect our climate from an existential threat to all of us. And so now's the time if you're listening and you're interested in philanthropy, you want to be a part of these things, give us a call. And, frankly now is the moment to act. It's not saving up to be around 30 years from now. It is right now.

**HAL HARVEY:**

I could not have offered a better summary. I agree completely. I'd really like to thank both of you, extraordinarily insightful comments and amazing work you have and continue to do. Much appreciated. So thank you for that. I have a quick logistics note. The next and last session of the day is called Amplifying Diversity and Youth Voices. And it will take place after a short break at 12:10 PM Pacific Time. So again, Raj, Andrew, many, many thanks. And look forward to more opportunities together.

**ANDREW STEER:**

A pleasure.

**RAJIV SHAH:**

Thank you.

**ANDREW STEER:**

Bye.

**RAJIV SHAH:**

Bye.



# AMPLIFYING DIVERSITY AND YOUTH VOICES IN THE CLIMATE MOVEMENT

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15  
12:10 PM

## **VANESSA NAKATE**

CLIMATE ACTIVIST @VANESSA\_VASH

## **ISHA CLARKE**

YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST @Y\_VS\_A

## **MODERATOR JACQUELINE PATTERSON**

DIRECTOR OF THE NAACP ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE  
PROGRAM

## **JACQUI PATTERSON:**

Okay. So good day, everyone. It is a pleasure to have this conversation with everyone who's gathered to listen to us today. My name is Jacqui Patterson. I am the senior director of the Environmental and Climate Justice Program of the NAACP. And I'm honored to be joined by Vanessa Nakate, who is a climate activist from Uganda, and Isha Clarke, who is a co-founder and activist with Youth vs. Apocalypse. And so I wanted to just get started with a few brief remarks, just framing our conversation today.

First off, with the NAACP's work on environmental and climate justice, I'm the founding director of the program. And when I first started doing the work with the NAACP, which stands for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, it's a 111-year-old civil rights organization. But when I first started, people were surprised that a civil rights organization was doing work on environment, including the communities that we served even.

And so the rationale that I always gave was that, and continue to give in some ways because people continue to ask that question, even though the program has been in existence for 11 years now. And the answer we provide is that the constituency was served, who are basically often African-American communities, low-income communities, other marginalized communities, as well as just communities in general, but our communities tend to be disproportionately impacted by the entire climate continuum. From the fact that where we have communities that are more likely to live next to coal-fired power plants and oil and gas facilities and incinerators. And so that means that we have the health conditions that come from that, whether it's our African-American children are three to five times more likely to enter the hospital because of an asthma attack and two to three times more likely to die from an asthma attack.

And African-American families are, 71 percent of African-American families live in counties in violation of federal air pollution standards. An African-American family making \$50,000 a year is more likely to live next to a toxic facility than a white American family making \$15,000 a year. So often people assume that the ways that we're more harmed come through income, but even race above income. It's not just poor communities that are disproportionately impacted by the polluting facilities that drive climate change, it's also other communities and races. The factor, that's the commonality there. And so whether it's that side of the continuum in terms of the drivers of climate change or its impacts of climate change, from the fact that disasters are hitting us all. But then when they hit our communities, they hit them harder because of the pre-existing vulnerabilities, whether it's poor housing stock or a lack of insurance or its infrastructure issues. Because so often our communities don't have the levy infrastructure or the storm water management infrastructure that our other communities enjoy. So when disasters come, they hit us harder and they harm us more.

When we talk about shifts in agricultural yields, we already have a situation where we have what they call what was traditionally or historically segregation, but as even in these days, it continues to be segregation before it was institutionalized by certain policies and practices, historically that still continue on to this day to some extent. And so that means we're separated from key resources, such as food resources, whether it's a grocery store or a farmer's market. And so we're more likely to be impacted by the shifts in agricultural yields and make healthy and nutritious foods more available.

We talk about sea-level rise. Our communities are often, are now under threat of being displaced by sea-level rise, but the resources for either helping to buttress the community against the impacts of sea-level rise, whether it's making sure that a seawall is in place, or again, better storm water management systems, or even helping to preserve the wetlands and each and every one of our coastal communities, we're finding ways that we're not as protected as other communities. And so we are finding ourselves at risk in terms of the impacts of sea-level rise.

And so all of these make often, there's this term now that communities of color and low-income communities in the United States are considered to be what they call, the South within the North. Which is really out of acknowledgment of the global dynamics of climate change in the ways that the nations in the global south are impacted. Which is why I'm so glad to be having this conversation with my co-panelists and really talking about the commonalities across nations and across oceans. They say that when the US sneezes, the world catches a cold, and the United States has come up with the whole conversations around the racial reckoning, as well, as well as the COVID-19 impacts. They say when America gets a cold, black America gets pneumonia.

So we know that the United States is 4 percent of the global population, but 25 percent of the emissions that drive climate change. We also know that 25 percent of the global incarcerated population is in the United States. And 25 percent of the COVID-19 cases are in the United States. Even though, again, we are 4 percent of the global population, which speaks to the broken systems that we're in and what it means in terms of impacts. So even though we are driving climate change across the country, I mean, across the world, more than other nations, that we still have these punitive immigration systems. Whether it's, even though folks are coming across the border often due to climate forced migration. I've been working in places like Laredo, where I hear story after story of bread baskets drying up and people just coming to survive and feed their families. And there's room for people, for us to offer sanctuary instead of locking kids in cages. But instead, we don't have the political system that really opens our arms to folks to welcome them. Both just from a humanitarian standpoint and because we are actually responsible for their homes not being inhabitable.

So yeah, we find hope, we have found hope in the rising generation, and that's why I'm, again, so blessed to be here with Vanessa Nakate and Isha Clarke because their leadership as women, as black women, is what's inspiring and what we know that we need in order to make the transformational systems changes that we need to both push back on climate change and make sure that we're actually advancing climate justice. And they have in common, their ancestry, their activism, and their attitude. Their can-do attitude, which is saying that we can make these changes that are necessary.

We know that in Uganda where Vanessa hails from, they're experiencing unusually high temperatures, as well as increased floods and landslides and she's raising the voice on that and calling these issues to consciousness. We know in Oakland, that right now, Oakland, is suffused with a cloud of smoke because of the proliferation of forest fires out west that we see every year. We know that last month, temperatures soared to 98 degrees in Oakland, breaking last year's record temperature of 90 degrees. And we see that across the country, where year after year, we're breaking each previous years' record. And so as they're rising and really visualizing, we know Vanessa will tell us about what invisibilization looks like from first hand, and in literal

terms from her experience that I think is now famous across the world.

And we look forward to hearing of the connections that Isha and Vanessa make in the work that they do, at the local level, at the state level and at the nation level and globally. So I want to just do a brief introduction of both of our panelists. So Vanessa Nakate is a climate activist from Uganda. She was the first Fridays for Future climate activists in Uganda and founder of the Rise Up Climate Movement in order to amplify the voices of activists from Africa. Her work includes raising awareness to the danger of climate change, the causes, and the impacts, and she spearheaded the campaign, Save Congo Rainforest, which is facing massive deforestation. This campaign later spread to other countries from Africa to Europe, and she's working on a project that involves installation of solar and institutional stoves in schools, which I'm super excited about hearing more about.

My first experience with a solar installation was in Tanzania. I spent a lot of time and tons of time in other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa doing work on environmental and climate, I mean, on environmental issues, as well as gender justice, as well as HIV and AIDS, and violence against women issues. And particularly, when I visited the solar array that was in Muheza Hospital in rural Tanzania. It was my first experience seeing how a solar array can power an entire hospital in a deep rural area. And that was 15 years ago or so, and so they were way ahead of the times that we are, when we're in the United States, we're finally kind of catching up with the necessary change that we need to make to clean energy. So definitely looking forward to hearing more from Vanessa.

Isha Clarke, is a co-founder and activist, a co-founder of Youth vs. Apocalypse, and a recent high school graduate, born, raised, and educated in Oakland, California. Isha recognizes that climate change is a consequence of fundamental systems of oppression like white supremacy, racism, and colonialism. Because of this, people of color, indigenous communities, and working-class people are disproportionately burdened by the impacts of the climate catastrophe. Knowing this, Isha's work is focused on building a movement that follows the leadership of frontline communities, creates solidarity between other fights for justice, and works to dismantle the systems of oppression that fuel climate change. As a result of this work, Isha was awarded the 2019 Brower Youth Award, 2020 Diller Tikkun Olam Award, and has become a nationally recognized speaker, presenter, and writer. So without further ado, I would love to have both Vanessa and Isha just kind of introduce yourselves and tell us a little bit about the work you do and what brought you into this activism that you're doing. Starting with Vanessa, thank you.

#### **VANESSA NAKATE:**

Hi, I'm Vanessa Nakate and I am a climate activist from Uganda. I started doing activism in the first week of January 2019, and I became an activist simply because I had seen how much the climate crisis was the biggest threat facing humanity right now. In the year 2018, I felt like I wanted to do something that would bring change in the lives of the people in my community. So I decided to carry out research to understand the challenges that they faced and finding that climate change was one of these challenges was a surprise to me. Because in schools it's more of the theoretical teaching of the climate crisis. It's not the reality of it. They don't tell us that it's real, they don't tell us that it's happening.

So I decided to read more about it to get to understand the causes, to get to understand the impact. And when I'd seen that some of these things were actually visible in my country from the north to the east to the west, I decided that I had to become a voice in the climate movement and demand for climate action from the leaders.

**JACQUI PATTERSON:**

Thank you. Thank you very much, I appreciate you. And Isha.

**ISHA CLARKE:**

Hey, my name's Isha. I'm also a climate activist, and it's an honor to share the stage with both of y'all. I started in this movement when I was a freshman in high school, so that was 2017. And I'd always been really aware of social justice and the realities of America and the world, just because of my family. But I never felt connected to anything that was environmental or climate-related because it was always presented to me as something that was very white and of privilege, and I didn't feel connected to that at all. But when I was a freshman in high school, I was invited to an action targeting Phil Tagami, who is a very prominent developer in Oakland, and who was and still is trying to build a coal terminal through West Oakland, which is where I live and is a community that is predominantly working-class people of color.

And it was at this action where I recognized what environmental racism is. And you were talking so, so amazingly about it earlier, but I realized how wrong that narrative that I was told was, and how actually destructive it is because it takes away from what's actually happening. Which is black and brown, indigenous, working-class people getting years taken off of their lives because of racist pollution and poisoning. And so I felt like I wanted to do something and I felt like the people who were actually being impacted by these things needed to be the loudest and needed to be the leaders. And so now we're here, with Youth vs. Apocalypse. Yeah, so I started off in environmental justice and worked my way to climate, which are one in the same thing.

**JACQUI PATTERSON:**

Thank you very much. Yes. Awesome. So I wanted to hear a little bit more about how each of you sees the importance of youth leadership in particular in the climate justice realm. And just how your perspective as youth and how you've been received as a youth leader and as well as what you see as the way forward in terms of youth leadership. So starting again with Vanessa and then...

**VANESSA NAKATE:**

Well, first of all, I have to acknowledge that youth leadership is needed and it is very important because the youth are not afraid to speak the truth to power. They're not afraid to state the facts the way they are, the science, the way it is. They are not afraid to just speak out what is really happening because we have so much seen the climate issues being sugarcoated and we've been made to feel like this isn't a crisis, this isn't a challenge. And then the youth leadership comes in and says, no, this is an emergency. This is a crisis, this is a disaster, and you must treat it as a crisis. So I think youth leadership is really important because they speak truth to power. And it is the future

of the youth that is at stake. That means their voices matter at such a point, they have a right to demand for what rightfully belongs to them.

First of all, it's already disturbing that the youth have to fight for something that has to be given to them. Children don't have to be on the streets, shouldn't have to be in school. They have to be out playing games, or they have to be at home playing indoor games. Whatever children are supposed to do, that is what they are expected to do. Maybe those who are not children, but they are youth probably they have to be in school and study, but then they have to go on the streets. They have to demand for action because our adults have always been very disappointing and it's really sad.

So I think youth leadership is important because they state the facts the way they are. They don't sugarcoat the disasters that we are seeing, the wildfires, the hurricanes, the racist pollution that Isha has talked about. They clearly state these points that we don't have justice at all. The reason is social justice, the reason is environmental justice, the reason is climate justice. And I think the future of youth leadership is of course, one that will lead to change. I believe that the youth are able to transform this world through their leadership.

**JACQUI PATTERSON:**

Thank you. And Isha.

**ISHA CLARKE:**

Wow, well, I don't really know if there's anything to add to that. I feel like Vanessa perfectly summed that up. This is our future and the adults are the ones that brought us here. So I think it's important to have the people who are most impacted and are going to be most impacted, leading the fight. And so for me, that means not only young people, but that means frontline, young people. That means we need to have indigenous people leading black folks, other people of color. We need queer folks and trans folks and differently-abled folks and everyone who's been marginalized and silenced in the world to be our leaders. Because the truth of the matter is that this climate crisis is a result of these systems of oppression that we are so attuned to experiencing. And so we need the people who are at the forefront of that to tell us how we need to rip it out and what needs to be put in its place.

**JACQUI PATTERSON:**

Thank you. Thank you so much. And yes, that's well-stated because we really do need to not just tweak the deeply flawed systems, but actually, as you say, rip it out. So both of you are, maybe I shouldn't assume, I put my she/her there, but do you both identify as she/her or?

**ISHA CLARKE:**

Yes.

**JACQUI PATTERSON:**

And Vanessa? Yes, okay. So both of you are female and one of the things that when I was doing work in South Africa in particular, I was struck by, in South Africa and

Zimbabwe, they talked about how with the shifts in water access, that girls are having to walk further to get water as a result of climate change. And so, whereas girls had to walk maybe a couple of kilometers to get water or before, they are now having to walk five kilometers to get water.

And really one, in terms of gender justice, so both in terms of, meaning that people aren't able to go to school in some cases, because they're having to walk further. But also in a very grim focus group, they talked about wanting to actually have female-controlled condoms because the likelihood of sexual assault was so extensive in that walk, that further walk to get water, and they wanted the girls to be able to wear female-controlled condoms every time they went to make that walk. And so that was just one of the most devastating things I've ever heard in my life. And so these kinds of gendered impacts that we're seeing. And also in the US context, we are also seeing gendered impacts whether it's the pollution that is tied to endocrine disruptors, or the violence against women that happens in the context of the oil and gas pipelines. Particularly against indigenous women, it's tied to missing and murdered indigenous women.

And then we also, well there's, yes, all too many examples. So just wondering if each of you could touch on the gendered, the intersection between gender justice and climate justice as you experience it. And as I said, even though we talk about those negative impacts, I'm just seeing with you and others, the awesomeness of women's leadership and unique recognition that I'm finding that women have around these comprehensive vast systems changes. Not just tweaking a system, recognizing the deep systemic changes that need to be made. So just wondering if both of you could kind of comment on those intersections. Again, start with Vanessa.

#### **VANESSA NAKATE:**

Yes. First of all, there is no climate justice and environmental justice without gender justice. Because I come from communities whereby it is the women that put food on the table. It is the women that put water on the table for their household like you've talked about. And you find that in times when they experience a climate disaster, many of them have to do much more work to recover everything that has been lost. Many of them have to walk very long distances in order to get water for their families. And many of them are, it's not only about the violence that they face on the way to get that water from maybe the wells or from the streams. And then if they're not able to get that water, their husbands, they tend not to be really nice to them because they think that they are lazy and they're not really doing anything and they're not doing what they're supposed to do. So many of them, they may experience that the gender abuse on the way to get the water, but if they don't get it more violence awaits them at home.

So there is so much of a linkage between the climate justice and then gender equality. You find that when a family loses everything and some of the children have to drop out of school, the girl child is always the first on the list to drop out of school. Why? Because the parents expect bride price from the husband to be, and then they're also reducing the number of children in their homes.

And then the other issue that I will talk about. I come from a country whereby I grew up when they tell us that girls are not supposed to climb trees, basically as a culture.

But you find that in the case of an occurrence of a flood, most people who survive a flood, they find them on trees because they climb them. But if a flood happens and I don't know how to climb a tree, I don't know how to swim, there is no other way for me to survive. So I believe that in every disaster, women are affected the most. When you look at single mothers, when they experience disasters like hurricanes, and they are pushed to the streets, they are faced with so much gender-based violence.

So there is no way we can have gender equality without addressing the issues in the climate movement. The gender issues and the climate issues, they are so interconnected. We cannot achieve one without the other.

And then also you find that in the spaces of people who talk about climate change in the discussions, women leadership is still lacking in that. If women are affected the most, then they should be the leaders in these discussions. And it's not about them being invited to the table, they also have to wear the same. Their discussions have to wear the same because many times they show us that the women have been invited on the table, but the weight of their discussions is actually lower than the weight of other people's discussions. So I feel like there is so much to do with gender inequalities within climate injustices. We cannot have gender equality without climate justice, and we cannot have climate justice mainly without gender equality.

#### **JACQUI PATTERSON:**

Thank you. Thank you so much. Yes. Isha.

#### **ISHA CLARKE:**

Gosh, I'm like what do I add? You've already covered everything. So I'll just say that I 100 percent agree with everything that Vanessa said. Thank you so much for that. And what I would add, I think specifically in the US I would like to talk about the burden of black women as it relates to really everything. Because what we're seeing right now, are all of these crises unfolding in the US because of these unsustainable systems that we're built on top of. Systems of white supremacy and colonialism and capitalism. And the burdens of dealing with those crises and of holding the movements and the people affected by them, go to black women. And other women of color too, but largely black women.

And I think that, to bring it to talking about the recent police violence, where's the justice for Breonna Taylor? Black women are holding us in all of these spaces and are holding together our society when we're experiencing this economic downturn and the spread of this pandemic that should not have been going on this long. When we're experiencing increasing environmental racism and impacts of climate change, we're seeing black women hold up our society. And in turn, where's our justice? That's just something I would like to offer to that. Yeah.

#### **JACQUI PATTERSON:**

Thank you so much. So we have about two and a half minutes left and I want to make sure that you both are able to answer the question. As we go forward, what gives you hope? What type of solutions do we need to advance in order to really address the issue? And really in a multi-solving capacity given, as we say, the root causes that we've all talked about. So I'll start with Isha and then go to Vanessa.

**ISHA CLARKE:**

I think right now what we need to fight for, what we need to talk about, and what we need to acknowledge, is the need for collective liberation. And the reason why I say that is because again, I'll say a million times, the reason why we're here is because, especially America but the entire world, is built on top of these systems of white supremacy and colonialism and economic exploitation. And that's why we're here. And that is also what is causing all other marginalized communities to suffer. And so we have to recognize that climate justice, that the work of all people right now, needs to be dismantling these systems that are at fault for these crises in every way that they exist. Whether that be through environmental racism and climate change, or through faulty education systems, or through gender-based violence, or through police violence, whatever that may be, that is climate justice.

And we're existing in a very scary time, but I believe that there is true opportunity here. That there's an opportunity that has never been seen before to do the work that our ancestors have been trying to do for centuries. Because all of the crises that we're seeing are these very visceral experiences of watching these unsustainable systems fail. And because of that, that means that we have this opportunity to actually dismantle them because they're already not working and we're going to need new systems. So this is our opportunity to implement truly just and sustainable systems that are envisioned by the people who have been most impacted by this faulty system. And so that's what's giving me hope right now and that's what I'm fighting to do for collective liberation.

**JACQUI PATTERSON:**

Thank you so much. Thank you. Yes. Collective liberation, indeed. Vanessa, you get the last minute.

**VANESSA NAKATE:**

Well, basically, just to add on what Isha said. So after us dismantling all the systems, I believe that we need a system that is inclusive, equitable, and sustainable. Thank you.

**JACQUI PATTERSON:**

Thank you so much. Wonderful. Well, this was amazing. I've deeply appreciated this conversation. It was definitely too short, but we hope that those who are listening will have gained for it and really will follow both Vanessa and Isha going forward and their awesome work and continue to be inspired and led by it. So thank you all. Take good care.

**ISHA CLARKE:**

Thank you.

**JONATHAN VISBAL:**

Hello again, everyone. I'm Jonathan Visbal, Chairman of the Board of World Affairs. And I just want to thank all of our speakers for a fantastic day at the Global Philanthropy Forum. The energy that young people like Vanessa Nakate and Isha

Clarke are dedicating to bring climate change to the top of the global agenda is inspiring. Thanks to them both and to Jacqueline Patterson of the NAACP for her great work. This brings day two of the GPF to a close on an inspiring note. And tomorrow we'll set our sights on the way forward and consider more reasons for optimism. We look forward to seeing you tomorrow morning at 8:00 AM Pacific time.



## THE PATH FORWARD: CLEAN ENERGY AND GRASSROOTS POWER

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16  
8:00 AM

### **BILL MCKIBBEN**

AUTHOR AND ENVIRONMENTALIST @BILLMCKIBBEN

### **MODERATOR JOANNA MESSING**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GROWALD FAMILY FUND @JOMESSING

### **PHILIP YUN:**

Good morning everyone from San Francisco. I'm Philip Yun, CEO and president of World Affairs and your host. We hope you had a restful evening or are having a good day so far, depending on where you may be around the world. We're on day three of the Global Philanthropy Forum. And today we look ahead and talk about concrete actions to deal with climate change and what we can do to make these solutions and ideas that we'll be discussing better and more effective. So it's my great pleasure to introduce this next panel. We start with one of the great environmentalists of our time, Bill McKibben. Bill is in conversation in this with our session's host, Joanna Messing, who is the executive director of the Growald Family Fund. Let's go to it. Now, we turn to Joanna to talk about clean energy and grassroots power with Bill McKibben. Thank you.

### **JOANNA MESSING:**

Hi everyone. Thank you very much. It's a pleasure to be here today. My name is Joanna Messing. I'm the executive director of the Growald Family Fund, a venture philanthropy fund that's catalyzing efforts towards the rapid transition to a clean energy future. We work internationally to support seed and early-stage leaders and organizations to scale their visions. I'm really thrilled to welcome you all into a conversation with my fellow traveler, Bill McKibben, founder of the global grassroots climate campaign, 350.org. We know him as an author of such seminal books as *The End of Nature*, which is regarded as the first book written for a general audience about climate change. He's also recently started a new newsletter, "The Climate Crisis" at *The New Yorker*. He's a professor serving at Middlebury College. He has 19 honorary degrees, which is really impressive. And basically he's organized for climate action everywhere, in every continent. He's played a leading role in launching the opposition to big oil pipeline projects, launching the fossil fuel divestment campaign, which has become the biggest anti-corporate campaign in history with endowments worth more than 15 trillion, stepping back from oil, gas, and coal.

It's really hard to quantify the immense impact that Bill's work has had on people and on our planet. But as a climate philanthropist who's had the honor of working with Bill and 350, I've been able to see the impact of his work on the ground and on our thinking. In this conversation, I'm hoping we can discuss some of the hard-won lessons that Bill's learned from his decades of climate activism and reflect together on some of the opportunities in climate philanthropy to guide our community's thinking and priorities, particularly in this moment of crisis.

Bill, if we go back to the beginning, back in 2010, we at Growald, then our sister foundation Rockefeller Brothers Fund, gave a seed grant to this tiny think tank in London called Carbon Tracker which had the audacious idea that climate change might actually impact markets. They introduced this concept of the carbon bubble and stranded assets. At the time this was absolutely radical, but you saw something in this. And your article in Rolling Stone and your work with 350 helped to take that idea and spread it like wildfire through the world. I would just love to hear when you reflect back on that, what are some of the lessons that you take away, particularly around inside and outside strategy, the role of funders in supporting that type of unusual collaboration and partnership? I'd love to just hear some reflections from you.

**BILL MCKIBBEN:**

Sure. Joanna, first of all, what a pleasure to get to talk with you and to get to see you on the screen, which is how we see people these days. As you can tell, I'm in my car, my electric vehicle, because that's what happens with the rural internet in America, but it's a pleasure to join you all. That was an interesting story and I'm kind of glad you brought it up. I'm also really glad that you gave some money to Carbon Tracker early on. They published a small report in 2012 and it just laid out what to me was the extremely interesting fact that the fossil fuel industry, the big oil, coal or gas companies had in their reserves about five times as much carbon as any scientist thought we could safely burn. And once you read that, then you understood companies like Exxon in a new light—that's kind of rogue companies which if their business plan was carried out, the ends of this story was already written.

The only other person I know who actually read that report when it first came out was my dear friend Naomi Klein. The two of us were talking about it and it both struck us both for the same reason. And we both had the same initial thought. We'd been in college during the anti-apartheid divestment campaigns and both of us thought that there was something comparable here, but that was maybe the last time that we had true rogue companies operating way outside the bounds of what should be considered normal. And so we wondered if a divestment campaign of the same sort might be workable. I wrote that piece for *Rolling Stone* and it went extremely viral, I think because it had this new data in it and I was able to help other people share my sense of shock at what we were learning and then set out to do this organizing campaign. And we did it.

With my colleagues at 350, we within a couple of months had set up this series of events across America. I think we did 29 cities in 30 days. And we were doing three or 4,000 people a night, big arenas. It was harrowing, but by the time we were done...you can actually see the video at Do the Math if you just Google Do the Math YouTube. By the time we were done, there were 400 college campuses in America that had divestment campaigns underway. So this had all happened in the space of less than a year. And before the next year was up, we'd done the same thing around Australia and New Zealand and then around Europe and had massive divestment campaigns going in all these places.

10 years later, fast forward, as you say, this has become a huge operation. We're closing in on \$15 trillion in endowments. More to the point it's making a huge impact lessening the political power of these companies. Jim Cramer, America's favorite stock picker who yells at people every night about what stocks to pick on television, devoted a night in January to saying no one should buy oil companies stocks anymore because the divestment movement had just gotten too big around the world and there was never going to be money made in them again. Too many funds had to put them aside. That I think has been well worth the effort. It's one of the things I've worked on this last decade, and it's a perfect example of this kind of synthesis of data, real expertise ability to take that and translate it into language and imagery that everyone can understand and then just hardcore organizing.

But the thing about it that was maybe best was that my premise going in was most people don't have a coal mine or a pipeline or something in their backyard, but everybody's close to a pot of money at their college, at their church, at their local

pension fund. So this is a way for everybody to get in this fight. Once we started that initial kickoff of organizing, it's mostly been just people taking it on in thousands and thousands and thousands of different places on their own and it their own, including of course, in the world of philanthropy where people like Wallace Global have done an amazing job of trying to convince other foundations to not put their money where their mouth isn't or whatever the right way of phrasing it would be. But huge shout out to everybody who's been worked on that. It's been enormously helpful. And I'll add one of the signal moments in the entire thing was when the Rockefeller philanthropies, heirs of the world's biggest original oil fortune, divested their holdings in fossil fuel. That was two or three years in and it was a huge and important part of that story.

**JOANNA MESSING:**

Thank you. I mean, I feel like there's so many lessons from this for philanthropy today. Thinking about how we de-risk new ideas by supporting early-stage organizations or research, but also about how we help scale things quickly and boldly. And then also how we as foundations act ourselves with our own endowments and our own voices. And so it's really, I feel like a unique example within the interaction of philanthropy, civil society and movements. I've been reflecting a lot as I'm sure most people are about how do we need to change our philanthropic strategy? What's the right scale and scope of action right now in this time of crisis, particularly as we look internationally? And I'd be really curious to hear your lessons or reflections or things that you might want philanthropists in the audience to be considering now based on these lessons.

**BILL MCKIBBEN:**

Well, I got to say my experience of philanthropy is limited. I was on the board for a number of years of the Schumann Foundation with Bill Moyers at its head. But it was a very anomalous operation. I got to watch as proposals came in and the Schumann brothers, whose money it was, would invariably say, "Well, that sounds like a great idea. Let's give them twice as much as they've asked me for." In a certain way, I came to think that was a smart strategy to make some bets and then just bet on people and let them at it. The thing about climate change, and this may be unique to climate change. I think the thing that I understand about it as you know better than anybody is that it really is the first time limited problem that we've ever faced. It's not like the other political problems that we deal with where you get to come back every few years and nibble a little bit more and get a little further along.

If we don't solve it very soon, and the ITCC has indicated that very soon means the next decade, then we won't solve it. I mean, we will have gone past tipping points from which there is no return. So that characteristic, if we had 75 years to deal with it, the answer to how to fund and organize and everything would be very different. But since we don't, it argues for a lot of Hail Mary passes, a lot of really pushing super hard in a super short period of time. If you're interested in climate change, your money turns to dust after 2030 or 2035 or something like that, because the problem will by then either have been addressed to some degree or will reach the point of unaddressability.

**JOANNA MESSING:**

I completely agree with that. I mean, I do think there's some really bold examples of what philanthropists have been doing. We're seeing more spend down foundations, we're seeing innovative financing. And I certainly encourage foundations to look into that. One of the things that I think is also a challenge with this moment is finding hope and optimism and seeing opportunity in on what often seems very bleak. And so I'm curious and would love to hear where you're finding hope and seeing opportunity right now.

**BILL MCKIBBEN:**

Well, I'm hopeful. I'm not always hopeful, Joanne. I mean, the name of the book that I wrote about this 30 years ago was that with the cheerful title, *The End of Nature*. And so I'm no Pollyanna about where we are. But when we started 350.org now just over 10 years ago, that was the first iteration of a global climate movement. I mean, that was it. When we did our first day of action in 2009 and we had 5,200 demonstrations in 181 countries, it was the first florescence of any kind of global unity coming together around this. Most of those 5,200 demonstrations were small, 100 people here and there, but in every part of the world. Now, it's so beautiful to watch so many people piling in Extinction Rebellion, the Sunrise Movement, the Green New Deal. Most beautiful of all the high school and junior high school students around the world. Everybody knows Greta Thunberg and she is wonderful and I love working with her, but there are 10,000 Greta Thunbergs and 10 million followers of these people scattered all over the world. And it is tilting now public opinion in a powerful way.

The combination of that hope and the very raw fear that comes with watching fire overtake the West Coast and watching five hurricanes dance across the Atlantic at the same time and on and on and on. Those two things have opened a window for public opinion to shift in powerful ways. And over the last 10 years, the engineers have done a good enough job of dropping the cost of sun and wind that if we wanted to, we could make rapid and pretty dramatic progress. The stumbling block remains the power of the fossil fuel industry. Its ability to prevent change from happening is you know better than anyone from your remarkable work on coal and particular all over the world, for which one is deeply grateful. But we're closer because we've built these movements to having a counter balancing power there.

Look, we've lost 30 years in this fight. That means I have to cram the work of four decades into one decade. I don't know whether it can be done, but I know it has to be done. And so I'm really glad that there's a movement there to try to get it done.

**JOANNA MESSING:**

Yeah. I'm also so inspired by the people that we keep meeting, especially leaders from emerging economies, non-traditional environmentalists, and we're really thinking about how we find new leaders, find new organizations, support new voices and approaches. I'm curious about what you're thinking in terms of how we nurture that next generation at speed and scale that don't have the time to build a career over 10, 20 years and emerge as a leader in their 40s or 50s, but are really emerging as leaders now in their teens and early 20s. And 350 has been absolutely amazing at

finding and cultivating some of those young leaders. What are your thoughts on how we speed that up and really amplify the support of new leaders?

**BILL MCKIBBEN:**

I mean, that's the right question. One of the things is when there's a fight going on, when people are engaged in a big fight, that's when you learn, that's when things really kill us. So the divestment movement was the perfect school. Almost all the people who were running the Sunrise Movement and brought forth the Green New Deal, they cut their teeth on divestment campaigns on college campuses. It may have been the biggest yield of that entire campaign. So Varshini Prakash who runs the Sunrise Movement, divested UMass Amherst before she did anything else. I think when you can get fights underway, it really helps. It's wonderful to watch young people coming in. It's wonderful and really powerful to see the emerging leadership at the absolute front of this work, of indigenous people around the world, in every continent, and of frontline communities.

I'm going to say something that you'll find odd. I think the next interesting organizing challenge may not be with young people. It may be with old people. I think maybe that's where I'm going to be putting a lot of my efforts in the next few years. I think we have a huge pool of underutilized potential activists and that figuring out how to bring them into this fight as backup for young people around the world may be really, really a crucial determinant. I'm not completely sure how to do that, but I've got some ideas and it's what I'm working on next. If anybody wants to help, be in touch.

**JOANNA MESSING:**

That's interesting. I know my mom will want to be engaged in that for sure. And so we only have two minutes left, but I'm so grateful to you and for our conversations over the years and the work of 350. I feel like the message that you're sending is really that we as philanthropy need to be acting boldly now, and that there are many different engagement points from working with youth to working with elderly people, to working in the US, to working internationally on the inside or the outside. But that really the priority is acting and acting boldly and not being afraid to take some risks because we as philanthropy, as a sector, are uniquely able to take risks. Are there any closing words that you would have?

**BILL MCKIBBEN:**

I really do want to thank everybody who's been part of this fight. The last decade has been very, very interesting, and it will have been worth it all, all the trips to jail, all the whatever. If it sets us up for this coming decade, we're going to have to be working, continue to work hard from the outside and we're going to need a good inside game too as countries and institutions begin actually to bend in the right direction. But to me, always, always the key is more organizing. That's what tilts the scales. And you can have the best set of policy plans in the world, and really we've had them for a very long time. It's not been really mysterious about what we needed to do, but until we build that organizing muscle, until we're able to strike a little bit of fear into the powers that be, either that or offer them the real reward of big backing, it's difficult to get change at the scale we need.

So I continue to tell people the same thing when they ask, “What should I do about climate change?” I answer, “You’re not going to solve it at this point. One Tesla at a time, one vegan dinner at a time. The most important thing an individual can do, and this goes I think for foundations too, is be a little less of an individual. Join together with others in movements big enough to make a difference.” And we’ve never needed it more.

**JOANNA MESSING:**

Thank you so much, Bill. I completely agree. Unfortunately, we’re at the end. And the next session, Collective Action: Holding Governments Accountable will begin after a short break at 8:30. Thanks so much to the Global Philanthropy Forum for hosting us. And please send questions or comments afterwards. We would be happy to continue this conversation on the platform.

**BILL MCKIBBEN:**

Thank you again, Joanna.

**JOANNA MESSING:**

Thank you, Bill.

## COLLECTIVE ACTION: HOLDING GOVERNMENTS ACCOUNTABLE

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16  
8:30 AM

### HINDOU OUMAROU IBRAHIM

PRESIDENT, ASSOCIATION FOR INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND PEOPLES OF CHAD (AFPAT)

### TESSA KHAN

CO-DIRECTOR, CLIMATE LITIGATION NETWORK, URGENDA FOUNDATION  
@TESSAKHAN

### NATHANIEL STINNETT

FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL VOTER PROJECT @NCSTINN

### MODERATOR PETER SELIGMANN

CEO, NIA TERO AND CHAIRMAN, CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL  
@PETER\_SELIGMANN

### PETER SELIGMANN:

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening wherever you are. Thank you so much. My name is Peter Seligmann and I am just happy to be able to share a screen and this opportunity with three extraordinary people. I'd also like just to start out by acknowledging the Global Philanthropy Forum for inviting us to discuss community responses to climate threats. I, of course, want to acknowledge each of you who are participating, for your generosity, and for your altruism, for your concern.

Today we will have this opportunity to speak with Hindou, Nathaniel, and Tessa. These are three extraordinary human beings, all of whom have explored, designed, and delivered on breakthrough ideas for community empowerment in the face of climate catastrophe. Hindou Ibrahim is an extraordinary woman from Chad. She's an indigenous leader with a strong voice that's heard globally. She is also one of the local leaders in Chad who has forcefully and brilliantly supported her communities in the face of environment and climate tragedy.

And so, Hindou, it's wonderful to see you. I'm honored that you are also a board member of Conservation International. Nathaniel Stinnett has been as successful as anyone in inspiring environmentalists to actually vote. What you're going to hear from that is pretty shocking in terms of the differential between the hearts of people and their willingness to use the power of the vote to transform the state of the United States of America.

Tessa Khan is a human rights lawyer. She is a leader of a climate litigation initiative, a leader of the Urgenda Foundation, and has really paved the way for precedent setting in social justice commitments in the Netherlands. My name, Peter Seligmann. I've been involved in the environmental movement for many, many decades, really focusing on that simple concept that humanity needs nature to thrive.

In 2017, I stepped down from Conservation International and launched a new organization with a very singular commitment, which is how I became such close friends with Hindou, of working in solidarity with indigenous peoples to secure their self-determined commitments for their culture. Just as an opening, I wanted to highlight why we focus on indigenous peoples and why I have made such a deep personal commitment there.

Indigenous peoples have been assaulted by Western society since the 15th century. Their language, cultures, and lives have been subjected to genocide, which is more often ecocide, yet these communities control today one-third of the earth with 80 percent of the global biodiversity, and one-third of the above ground carbon. Their lives, as well as all of our lives, depend upon their continued guardianship of these territories. And most significantly, these cultures share something that I hope that we all humans can grasp, which is the concept of reciprocity that human beings and non-human beings are all interconnected.

These communities still retain deep knowledge of how the earth operates. If we listen to them, we can learn a lot. Today, just setting the platform for our conversation, we all recognize that it is in our enlightened self-interest to address the immediate and dangerous threats posed by climate change. The dramatic impact of climate change has already radically impacted food and water security of millions of people resulting in conflicts between communities over scarce resources, and also resulting in forced migrations from communities as they search for safety and security for their families.



We also know that the most common pixel on planet Earth is community. Thousands of communities, hundreds of thousand communities, inhabit every single part of the habitable pieces of this Earth. We know that within every single one of those communities, the most powerful force, probably the most powerful force on planet Earth, is the commitment of parents to children. We live in a world where you know that communities and families are striving for their own security and safety, yet much of our world is governed by bureaucracy.

Bureaucracy reigns in governments despite their awareness of the challenges posed by climate transition and they are incapable of rapidly changing the status quo. People who have, people who are privileged, do not want to risk the change as these changes pose a threat to their own security. The result is that those communities that do not have are endangered and in harm's way.

Fortunately, today, social media has brought so many of these communities together. So there is a voice today saying, "We need to act," allowing for shared ideas, shared experiences, and shared voice. So, although we see an increase in disparity, injustice, and instability, I believe we also see opportunities for solutions. That's really what we're going to be talking about today. What are the opportunities for solutions that emerge from organizations and from communities that can actually be transformative?

Because when we look at the Earth, we think about the head in the sky. It's always a big power. But the feet and the mud, the community, is what stimulates and drives action. That's what these three great leaders focus on.

I'd like to start with you, Tessa. First, thank you so much for calling in from London. Thank you so much for being here and for being willing to share the work that you've been doing, first, as a human rights lawyer, and now as a litigator and a designer of strategy.

Please could you describe what you're doing today and the way that your work is benefiting communities, how your engagement with these communities guides your efforts? In particular, let's start with, what made you realize that litigation is a very powerful tool for holding governments accountable for climate change? Tessa?

#### **TESSA KHAN:**

Thank you, Peter. It's such a pleasure to be part of this conversation. I'm so grateful to be with you all, and it's a real privilege to share a virtual platform with people like Hindou and Nathaniel. So thank you again. I guess I should say from the very beginning that as a lawyer by training and by practice, have a bias towards litigation. I think in the human rights world in particular, the community of us who have been fighting to advance the enjoyment of human rights litigation has proved to be a really powerful tool in some of the key struggles for economic and social and political justice.

Of course, in the US, there's a very rich history of litigation being used, key court cases that have helped to advance the civil rights movement. But equally in countries like South Africa and India, really in all countries that have the rule of law and some kind of legal protection of rights, litigation has often played an important role in advancing that agenda.

As far as climate litigation goes, in 2015 I was working in Asia with the women's movements there doing some legal advocacy around the negotiation of the sustainable development agenda. My organization was also doing some work around the Paris Agreement. I was really reflecting over the course of the year on how the year was going to culminate in these two new agreements, with a whole new set of commitments that governments would make to take sustainable development and the climate crisis seriously. But that wouldn't be new. That would really just be the latest in a series of an accumulation over decades of international agreements and decisions.

In the climate change space, there was the original Climate Change Treaty in 1992. Governments meet annually at the COPs to negotiate new decisions. And yet, so little seems to change on the ground. There's so little accountability, in my view, for all of those promises. I was in that head space when I heard about this court case in the Netherlands that was brought by an organization called The Urgenda Foundation against the Dutch government.

They were basically suing the government for not having fulfilled all of those promises. They were using local Dutch laws to really crystallize those commitments and to say to the court that the court should be ordering the government to actually reduce emissions in line with the objectives of the UN climate treaties. I think to the surprise of even the Dutch lawyers, the court agreed with them, and that was headline news. It was in the New York Times and the BBC.

It really landed I think like a bit of a grenade, I mean, a good grenade, in terms of illustrating that maybe there was this new avenue of accountability that we hadn't yet invested enough time and thinking, and that was how to use local legal frameworks and local legal institutions to hold governments accountable. I more or less cold called the Dutch legal team and quit my job and offered to join them and to help them to export their thinking and their strategy to the many other countries that I knew also needed that kind of strategy to force governments to do what we know is necessary, and what governments themselves have accepted is necessary.

That was really the beginning of the Climate Litigation Network. We've subsequently been working with lawyers and campaigners and activists in different countries who are seeking to get some real accountability for inaction, comprehensive inaction on the climate crisis. These cases are being brought on behalf of indigenous communities, on behalf of children, on behalf of all of the frontline groups who are at the pointy end of the climate crisis at the moment. So I think, yeah, that really, to me, demonstrated the power of litigation in this context.

#### **PETER SELIGMANN:**

Let me just ask you a follow-up question. You win a lawsuit, the Dutch government is forced to live up to their commitment. Do they have the capability? Do they have the strategy and the plan in place that actually allows them to do that, where they are actually able to do what they promised? Because that seems like the essential, "Okay, I've got to do it. What do I do?"

#### **TESSA KHAN:**

Yeah. I'm really glad that you asked that, Peter, because I think that's such an important part of any litigation strategy, is how do we actually make sure that

whatever comes out in court translates into real change on the ground, so to speak? I think that with climate change, governments have known for decades, actually, what they need to do. They've had the resources to do it. They just haven't prioritized it.

I think the way that governments around the world have responded to the COVID-19 crisis is really evidence that when they put their minds to it, they can mobilize the resources. Federal banks can pump trillions of dollars into the economy. We can make the sorts of structural economy-wide changes that we need to when we want to prioritize an issue. The Dutch government did make the emissions cuts that it was ordered to do, so that was a 25 percent reduction in emissions by the end of 2020, compared to 1990 levels.

This year, the Dutch government announced that it was going to phase out coal-fired power capacity by 75 percent in the Netherlands. It pumped three billion Euro into other emissions reductions measures. So that's really made all the difference. I think the other great thing about litigation is that, because it's a pretty dramatic tactic to take your government to court, it can focus a lot of media attention on the issue of climate change.

From 2015, when the first decision was announced by a Dutch court, it led to so much visibility of climate change as an issue that even though the government was still appealing the decision, the Dutch parliament voted to phase out coal-fired power as soon as possible. The Netherlands passed a new climate change act, and people really attribute that to the litigation and the fact that it put climate change on the agenda and put the government in the hot seat about it in a way that no one else had managed to do.

**PETER SELIGMANN:**

That's fantastic. Thank you. I mean, thank you now and for the answer, but more importantly, thank you for quitting your job and doing this. That's a big deal. Let me switch over to you, Nathaniel, and Tess, I'm looking forward to continuing this. I have other questions. I'd like to know how we export that to other countries as well. But Nathaniel, we talked earlier and what you've been working on is really how do you stimulate environmentalists to vote?

What you said was you're looking at data, and you're looking at behavioral change. Could you share with everyone present these extraordinary statistics that you just shared with us about the percentage of environmentalists who are concerned with climate and are actually not going to the polls and voting, and what you're doing about it?

**NATHANIEL STINNETT:**

Absolutely, Peter. Thank you. Yes, it's so crucially important to understand that at least in the United States, but we have some reason to believe in other countries as well, the environmental movement doesn't have a persuasion problem as much as we have a turnout or behavioral problem. It's certainly the case in American electoral politics. And so, although turnout rates vary from election to election, you have local elections, you have midterm elections, you have presidential elections, people who prioritize climate and the environment consistently vote less often than the average American.

And so, I'll give you an example. In the 2016 presidential election, so this is Donald Trump versus Hillary Clinton, 69 percent of registered voters voted, 69 percent, but only 50 percent of environmentalists turned out to vote. So a huge, huge gap, 19 percentage points below the average, and the average wasn't that good either. What that equated to in real numbers is that there were 10.1 million already registered to vote, super environmentalists, who just sat at home during the 2016 presidential election. 10.1 million of them in an election that was decided by 77,000 votes across three States.

And so, what we do with the Environmental Voter Project is we bypass a lot of the really hard, expensive stuff that a lot of environmental non-profits do, which is trying to change opinions and trying to change minds. Boy, is it hard these days to change someone's mind about climate change. Instead, we use data science to find the people who are already with us, to find the people who care so deeply about climate and the environment that it's quite literally their number one priority.

We don't need to change their minds or opinions about anything. Then we can do something that's a little bit easier. We can make a behavioral play and just try to nudge them into being better voters. The way that we do that is completely apolitical. We don't talk about candidates. We don't even talk about climate or the environment. We're this weird environmental nonprofit that never even talks about the environment.

Instead, we use little behavioral psychology tricks, like peer pressure and social pressure and appealing to the communal norms that people might buy into to try to nudge them into being better versions of themselves. It can pretty dramatically increase turnout, not only in specific one-off elections, but more importantly, it has a cumulative impact over time, because as many of the listeners are probably aware, not only in the United States, but across the world, federal governments aren't the only important policy makers that we need to deal with here.

It's also local and state governments. I mean, big city mayors can save the planet. State governments can save the planet. But what all of them have in common, at least in democracies with fairly consistent rule of law, is that they need to win elections. They need to respond to what voters want or else simple arithmetic just isn't going to give them enough votes to win. And so, what we do with the Environmental Voter Project is just try to dramatically increase the number of environmentalists who vote.

**PETER SELIGMANN:**

Are you targeting swing states?

**NATHANIEL STINNETT:**

No. What we're doing is we find states that have disproportionately large populations of these non-voting environmentalists, such that if we do our job, if we consistently increase turnout, every local state, federal primary, general, and special election, we will pretty soon have a transformative impact on the electorate for every election.

Now, many of them happen to be swing states. Many of the states that we're working in are, I mean, Florida, Pennsylvania, Arizona, North Carolina, but we're not there because they're swing states, because the truth is sometimes a swing state can be important for election X, but then three months later, it's not important for

election Y. So what we want to do is we go into a community, we find the non-voting environmentalists there.

Then whenever they have an election, even if it's for library trustee or dog catcher, we use it as a behavioral intervention opportunity to turn them into more consistent voters, because surprise, surprise, if you're trying to change someone's behavior, you can't just talk to them every two or four years when there was a big, sexy federal election going on. That's not how you change someone's eating habits. That's not how you changed someone's exercise habits. And it's also not how you change their voting habits.

And so, we really live in these communities and we find all the non-voting environmentalists and we try to nudge them into becoming more consistent voters whenever they have an election and not just these big presidential places.

**PETER SELIGMANN:**

How do you evaluate your success? I mean, are you a massive organization and have many, many different communities? Are there specific elections that you then say, "We have been able to turn out more voters?" What's the metric so that you could see that you're actually having the impact that you wish to have?

**NATHANIEL STINNETT:**

It's a great question. First, yes we are. Although we are a young organization at the Environmental Voter Project, we are increasingly massive. We're working in 12 states. We have over 4,600 volunteers who help us contact our voters with completely non-partisan, apolitical messaging. We measure our impact in two ways. The first is on an election-to-election basis, we submit our work to randomized control trials, which very quickly means the following:

Let's say we identify a million non-voting environmentalists in Florida, what we do not do is immediately start texting and calling and sending digital ads and direct mail to all million of them. Instead, before we talk to a single one, we randomly remove 20 percent and hold them aside in a control group and we never talk to them. Then the remaining 80 percent, those are the people who get our behavioral science-informed messaging.

Then what happens, and this is such a crucially important thing to understand, not only about the United States, but many democracies around the world, is this: Who you vote for is secret, but whether you vote or not is actually public record. What elections you show up in is public record. So then what happens, Peter, is after the election, we can look up and see how many people voted in our treatment group and how many people voted in our control group, and compare turnout in both groups.

And as long as it was a truly random process and the numbers are big enough, that allows us to isolate the impact that we were solely responsible for while isolating all the other variables. And so, as an example, in the 2018 midterm elections in our six states... We're now in 12 States, but we were in six states back then. We were solely responsible for increasing turnout, 2.7 percentage points, over the control group.

That might not sound like a lot to you, but ask Hillary Clinton how big a deal 2.7 percent is. It's a big number in this business. And then, finally, very quickly, the second

metric is we measure graduates. We measure how many people do we turn from non-voters into consistent super voters who vote in local state and federal elections. And by the end of 2019, just our third year, we had already graduated 253,000 people out of our program.

**PETER SELIGMANN:**

Yeah. That's fantastic. Thank you for that. I love it. I wish you were just really intentionally focusing on the swing states right now, to be honest, but that's just-

**NATHANIEL STINNETT:**

We're in a lot of them. We're in a lot of them.

**PETER SELIGMANN:**

Okay. Thank you so much, and congratulations. It's really exciting if you think about the opportunity to actually take advantage of the power that every individual has, to vote, to you use the power of your purchasing so you can send messages to the corporate world as to what you will consume, what you will eat, how you will live, and then also to really establish, what are the core values that we actually have to embrace?

I want to shift, Hindou. Well, first you're a dear friend, and secondly, you are an inspiration. As I stated in my introductory comments, the colonization process that came out of Europe in around 1453 when the papal bull, basically the Pope, said that the commandment Thou Shalt Not Kill only applies to Christians. Anybody else, you could take what they've got and we'll split it 50/50. And there was a colonization process spread all across the world.

What has really struck me as extraordinary has been the resilience of indigenous peoples and their determination to retain their core culture, as well as their territory. The other piece that really jumps out as I've been learning is if I look at communities that understand how the Earth operates, it's the indigenous peoples whose cultures have been shaped by that place.

I've listened to you before describing your own community, this relationship between your culture and your place and what you know and your knowledge. I wonder if you could just share with the people that are listening, who are not familiar with that kind of deep rooted connection between place and culture, if you could touch upon that and then go into the role that indigenous peoples can play in actually a transformation of how we care for large parts of this planet Earth?

**HINDOU IBRAHIM:**

Sure. Thank you very much, Peter. It's really a great pleasure to be with you in this panel. Of course, I enjoyed listening to Tessa and Nathaniel. I think this global work is really important in helping us, the indigenous peoples who are doing it from the ground. I'm coming from Mbororo pastoralist communities who are a nomadic peoples.

As you know, just to confirm, my people live across five countries. We do not think about the border. The border does matter to us because the land matters to us. My own people are living between Chad, Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, and the Central African Republic. When I say my people, it is not only, say, Mbororo peoples, but it is

my direct relative. I can have my direct, direct cousin in all those five countries coming from my father's side or my mother's side.

That means we are diverse in our ecosystem, and our life is linked with the environment where we are living. When you look at the map of those five countries, they are between desert and tropical forest. That means we are following the rain in our daily life, in our entire life. When it is the rainy season, we know exactly where we have to be. When it is a dry season, we know exactly where we have to be.

To give you an example, it is about our culture, about our identity. For centuries, we have lived in those environments and we know them better. Western knowledge takes all our regions and says we have like three seasons. There's a dry season, cold season, and rain season. That's it. When you come to my community and you take just Chad without going through others, the season that we have depends on the ecosystem where we live.

The communities living around Lake Chad, and I know that many in the audience understand that Lake Chad is shrinking from 25,000 square kilometers to 2,000. So 92 percent of the lake disappears, just evaporating in 50 years only. For the people who live around this place, we have five seasons. When you move from the center to the tropical forest in the South, we have seven seasons. So it is not only saying "oh, we do have four seasons like in Europe and counting from 21st of September is the summer entry." No.

For us, it depends on the understanding of nature. Each season has its specific knowledge and a specific information that comes, either from the stars, from the wind, from the clouds, from the best migrations, or from the flowers that are forming. So it helps us to understand which kind of season we have, and it has helped us to move from one place to another, North to South or South to North. So that's how deep our knowledge and culture are linked to our environment beyond the frontiers that just come with colonization.

#### **PETER SELIGMANN:**

Hindou, that is a profound relationship with the earth. Clearly, most of Western society, but really most societies, do not still have that deep relationship and understanding. What really has struck me has been this emerging interconnectedness and connection between indigenous peoples around the world, where you're no longer isolated, but you're connected. And you have been really working in that connection with many, many other cultures and communities.

Is there a sense of hopefulness amongst those communities because your voices are coming together? What do you see as the movement forward of this emerging power of indigenous voices and indigenous peoples?

#### **HINDOU IBRAHIM:**

Yeah. This is really the light I'm having also, linking up with my other brothers and sisters, indigenous peoples, across the globe. As you already said in your introduction, we are keeping 80 percent of the world's biodiversity. So that means we are living in all the world's ecosystems, from desert to the savannas, from glaciers to the tropical forest, from the mountain to the oasis. So, all the different ecosystems, islands, we are living on this one.

Put us together because we have one thing in common. We all depend on nature, and we know that we depend on this earth, and we have a duty to respect those land territories and resources. So it doesn't matter that we do not speak the same language like English, Spanish, or whatever. We speak our mother tongue, but we know we connect, immediately we connect.

I'll share with you the example of when I went to Paraguay. We went for a visit. I went to Brazil, and then I crossed the river. I went to Paraguay. I went to the very remote indigenous communities. Among themselves, they only have one school. They have one canteen for eating for all the people. When they saw me and I started just talking with them, someone was translating it, all of them came around me, and all the babies just to touch me.

They saw me like, "You are not from this culture. You do not wear our same clothes," but we feel this connection immediately. Why? Because we have the same language. Our language is the relation we have with our mother earth. And if the movement is growing, it's optimistic, I say yes. That's the power we are having. We are growing this power.

How we are growing it, I give you the example, also, during COVID. We do not see each other physically because otherwise we meet at international conferences. So we start having a webinar among ourselves and try to discuss this issue and what is happening among our staff. It's changed our strategy, how like the indigenous communities who are in Alaska, I get in touch with them just through a webinar, and others from Ecuador's Amazon, and myself, we discuss about how we are isolating our elders, how we are isolating our communities, how we are keeping them safe.

So this movement, even with this crisis, we are growing and having the same voice to face it together. That gives me more optimism. The last one, it's an organization like Nia Tero, like Conservation International, who are big organizations thinking about conservation. But we do have something growing from it, where it's Nia Tero who is thinking about the local, very local, thinking about the indigenous, and understanding what we are doing, what we are saying, what we are claiming.

Also, not just to give you a tip, of course you are my best friend, but just to say the reality. You said at the beginning, you think how indigenous people are marginalized and you are fighting for our rights and not saying it for the TV, but you are doing it. I saw it by my eyes physically, how you are caring. So if we have this kind of support and we come together ourselves. I think the hope is obvious there.

#### **PETER SELIGMANN:**

Yeah. Thank you very much, Hindou. I would just add, first of all, I appreciate all your kind words. One of the things I've learned is that, for the environmental community and the indigenous rights community to come together, there has to be a thoughtful process of acknowledgement of the impact of colonization of indigenous peoples. In other words, we that have been involved in the environmental movement need to think about the acknowledgement, about the reparation, and about the mutual forgiveness that's involved.

What I've been saying to my friends who are in the environmental movement is that if you're going to work with indigenous peoples, the starting point is acknowledgement of their rights as indigenous people, acknowledgement of the right of self-

governance. From there, you can build a trust relationship. What we have learned at Nia Tero is that our board is over 50 percent indigenous. Our staff is 60 percent indigenous. We have to be polycultural and be a bridging organization and learn to listen and make choices that are a collective, a collaborative agreement.

It's a learning experience that I'm loving. As an elder, I'm loving the learning. First of all, I want to just emphasize to the audience that please send in questions if you have questions, and there are some questions that have come in. Before I ask these questions, I want to go back to you, Tessa, just to ask you one question. You've had the success, the great success in the Netherlands, which is a remarkably progressive nation. I'm sure that not everyone is progressive there, but it is in essence there. Do you see the opportunity of taking that success in litigation for communities in terms of forcing a government to live up to their climate commitment and actually successfully transferring that to other nations? Are there examples of where you think that that will work?

#### **TESSA KHAN:**

Yeah, certainly. I can do one better, Peter, and I can tell you some examples of where it already has worked. To give you some contrasting examples to the Netherlands, there have been two successful cases in the last few years. One against the government of Colombia in Latin America and the other one against the government of Pakistan. The case against the Colombian government was brought by 21 young people, including indigenous people from the Colombian Amazon.

They brought a case against the government basically saying that the government was failing to stop deforestation of the Colombian Amazon, as it had committed to doing under the UN climate process. And that was a direct threat, not only to their rights, but to the rights of the Amazon, and that the Amazon was a subject of rights as well.

The Colombian Supreme Court, the highest court in the country, agreed with them, and it ordered the government not only to reduce deforestation of the Amazon as the plaintiffs had requested, but also to create an intergenerational pact for the preservation of the Colombian Amazon, recognizing really that it was young indigenous people, young people in Colombia who really have the most to lose from the ongoing degradation of that environment.

That's, I think, one very good example of the way that these cases don't look the same in each country, but they share the same broad objectives and tactics. And maybe I can quickly give you-

Then there was a Pakistani farmer who brought a case against the government of Pakistan, arguing that the government wasn't taking the steps that it had promised it would to protect Pakistani farming communities from the impacts of climate change. The government had already legislated to take those steps and it just wasn't doing it. It wasn't committing the resources to that problem.

Again, that argument was made on the basis that the failure to take those steps was incompatible with the human rights of this particular individual and the Pakistani. The High Court of Lahore agreed. These cases really are unfolding all over the world.

#### **PETER SELIGMANN:**

That's fantastic. That's fantastic. Nathaniel, one of the questions from the audience has been, if you look at what are some of the trends, the demographic trends, that you're seeing in non-voting environmentalists?

#### **NATHANIEL STINNETT:**

Great question. First, let me just acknowledge that there are obviously a million different ways that someone could define environmentalism. What we do at the Environmental Voter Project, because we're trying to bypass any issue of education or persuasion whatsoever, is really go for that tip of the spear, which is people who prioritize climate or environmental issues as their number one issue over all others.

When we look at those people, surprise, surprise, they don't look like me. I don't know what stereotypes people are carrying around in their heads about who an environmentalist is, but they're no longer the white yuppies wearing a Patagonia fleece hopping out of their Prius. Instead, what we're seeing is they are much more likely to be African-American or Latinx than white. They are much more likely to make less than \$50,000 a year than more, and they are slightly more likely to be young rather than old.

And so, what is interesting about that is, one, not only does it cut across many of the stereotypes that I think we hold, but, two, when you think about voter suppression efforts, not just in the United States, but elsewhere, who are the three groups that are always the subject of voter suppression? Poor people, people of color, and young people. And so, another thing that we really need to understand in the environmental movement when we talk about environmental justice is that many environmental issues are also civil rights issues.

But it goes the other way, too. It turns out that because environmentalists are disproportionately people of color and poor people, that actually anytime someone's civil rights are being taken away, chances are you are taking away power from the environmental movement. And so, I think it's enormously important for the environmental movement to start understanding that our constituency is not what it looked like in the '60s and '70s, and we really, really need to live that on a daily basis.

#### **PETER SELIGMANN:**

Great. Thank you. Hindou, a question for you. Do you see a difference in the way that indigenous women versus indigenous men experience and react to climate change?

#### **HINDOU IBRAHIM:**

Yeah, indigenous communities in general, men, women, and youth, all react to climate change. We react to build a solution from what we have. We have nothing. We don't have the technology to do it, but we do have our indigenous intelligence that helps us to do a lot of work on climate change. Of course, men's knowledge and women's knowledge are complementary, but a little bit different. Why is it different?

When I draw a 3D participatory mapping where I want to put the science knowledge and traditional knowledge of my peoples together to make the people who are



not indigenous understand our knowledge better, I have the man who comes and draws the knowledge with the big repair. So he knows where the mountain is, where the rivers are. And he knows where the bigger forest is, the primary forest. So they understand the big stuff and then the knowledge there.

But when the women come, they do have the detailed knowledge in all those spaces men describe, because in all those spaces, they can tell you, "It is the place where I can take water during this month. It is the place where I collect food or where I collect medicine for my kids." So they understand more detailed knowledge than the men. It's so clear to see, if we take just one knowledge, we forget about the other one. It's not working because their responses are holistic, so the knowledge needs to be holistic.

In another way, there is traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples, that's one thing. But in response to climate change, most of the time, even in the community, they respond during the dry season by saying, "Honey, you stay back home with the childrens. I'm going to the big city to find more jobs and send you back the money." And at that time, those who are left behind, the women and children, they are the innovators. They know where there is water, where there is food. They take care of the communities, their safety, their security and all. That's where they also are creative, and that's also why the indigenous peoples' knowledge is not just stuck in the box, but it's moving over the change that we are experiencing.

#### **PETER SELIGMANN:**

First of all, I want to thank you all. I just got the signal that we have one minute left. So I just want to do a quick wrap up. You are all inspiring. You're looking at strategies that are powerful, that are connected, and are hopeful. And so, thank you all for doing this. Thank you for pushing the edge, for searching adjacent to what is, and trying to figure out new solutions. This is a hope that we actually need to have.

Tessa, you talked a little bit about the litigation issue, and I just want to tell you that, in the work that I've been able to do with Maori people, I'm learning about ocean kinship and actually the rights of nature, the rights of the ocean that belong to communities and cultures that we have ignored, but they should have legal standing. And so, there's so many opportunities if we keep on searching for solutions.

The three of you are breaking new ground and I'm really honored to have had the chance to actually listen to you and to meet you. And may we get together again. So thank you all so much for what you're doing and keep on going. We've got a chance. We've got a lot of hope.

The next session is Peaceful Disruption, Emergency Funding For Raising Public Awareness, which will begin after a short break at 9:25 Pacific Time.

#### **TESSA KHAN:**

Thank you so much.

#### **NATHANIEL STINNETT:**

Thank you, Peter.

#### **HINDOU IBRAHIM:**

Thank you so much, everyone. It's really a great pleasure. Thanks so much, Peter. Good to see you.

## PEACEFUL DISRUPTION: EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16  
9:25 AM

**GERARDO CEBALLOS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STOP EXTINCTION

**AL MACCUISH**  
CO-FOUNDER AND CREATIVE CHAIRMAN, SUNSHINE

**MODERATOR TREVOR NEILSON**  
CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, I(X) INVESTMENTS AND BOARD CHAIR, CLIMATE  
EMERGENCY FUND @TREVOR\_NEILSON

### TREVOR NEILSON:

Thank you so much for having us. We're so happy to be here. There's so many old friends that are a part of the Global Philanthropy Forum, and we were thrilled to be able to come to you today to talk about a project that we have underway. As a brief bit of background, the amount of CO2 in the air as of May of 2020, hit an average of slightly greater than 417 parts per million. That's the highest average ever recorded. And it's up from 414 parts per million last year. And carbon dioxide levels are at the highest they've ever been in human history, probably the highest that they've ever been in three million years. And the last time there was this much CO2 in our atmosphere, the surface temperatures were significantly warmer than they are today. And sea levels were between 50 to 80 feet higher than they are today.

Currently we have five million acres burning here in California, in Oregon, and in Washington. Hundreds, if not thousands of homes have been lost and hundreds of lives will be lost by the time this is over, at the very same time as we have a hurricane that has hit the Southeastern portion of the country.

We're in a full blown climate emergency, and that emergency has had a devastating impact on biodiversity and ecosystems. I started the Climate Emergency Fund with Rory Kennedy and Aileen Getty to try to disrupt the sort of slow, terrifying trajectory that we're on as it relates to the climate emergency. And we funded a lot of different things, a lot of different activism groups. But today we're here to talk about that we have underway specifically focused on trying to stop the collapse of ecosystems and to stop species extinction.

I'll also say before I hand it off to Gerardo, who's leading this effort and who's one of the world's foremost conservation biologists, that just 100 companies in the world have been the source of more than 70 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions since the late eighties, and more than one third of all global carbon emissions since 1965 can be attributed to the 20 largest fossil fuel companies. This is largely a corporate problem. And we think perhaps a part of it can be a corporate solution. So with that, let me hand you off to Gerardo who will be the brains on this call.

### GERARDO CEBALLOS:

It is a great honor to be here with you. And let's remind us that we are all here basically in isolation and we cannot be together because of the COVID pandemic. And this COVID pandemic is related to we're talking to you today, and it's extremely important. It's probably one of the most important challenges that we humans have faced in the history of all of humanity. And it's related to destroyed habitats and the illegal trade of animals. The COVID pandemic, like 50 other epidemics and pandemics that have occurred in the last 40 years, is related to species extinction.

Unfortunately, our research has shown that we're facing an unprecedented problem that is the biodiversity loss. We're losing species of plants and animals at unprecedented rates. We have been doing a lot of these studies to try to show if the trends that we're seeing are normal or if this is something that is unique. And what we have found out is that we have lost more than 600 species in the last 500 years. Most of them in the last 100 years. And something that we were able to do just very recently is to be able to see if these were the normal trends. And based on the work of some of our colleagues, they looked at millions of records of species in the last 65

million years and they found that during normal times we basically lose two species for every 10,000 species, every 100 years. That's the basic rate. The current extinction rate is 10 to 1000 times faster than what happened in the last 10 years.

This is not new in the history of the life on Earth, but basically there were five mass extinctions in the past. And these five mass extinctions in the last 700 years basically have some characteristics. One, they were catastrophic. They were caused by a meteorite for instance or changes in the oxygen in the seas and oceans. Second, they were really fast in terms of geological times. But really fast in geological terms means basically thousands or hundreds of thousands of years. And third, they vaporize between 70 to 90 percent of all life on Earth. It took between 10 to 15 million years to recover.

So, based on what we have learned in the last five years, we have now clearly shown that we have entered the sixth mass extinction. But in this case, the big meteorite that is what vaporizing life on Earth is humans, is us.

Something that is very important to understand is that the current extinction crisis is not only losing a species, we're losing thousands and thousands of species. But it's incredibly important to understand what we'll see in many populations. And let me use your example. We have many pine forests or temperate forests in Canada or in Europe or in Mexico, and the forests in California are destroyed. It doesn't really matter that there are all the forests because the services, the benefits that the people in California get from the forests are lost.

We would have to look at the extinction crisis, but also at the population levels, maintaining species at regional and local levels, at national levels, and also the global levels. So the current extinction crisis deals with populations and species. And this is very important because only in the last very few years have we really understand that this is happening. And just to give you an idea of the gigantic losses of a species, not only have we lost in 100 years what we have lost in 10,000 years in terms of a species, since 1980 we have lost between 70 to 80 percent of all the large animals of all individuals. Just imagine, of all mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, fishes. Between 70 to 80 percent of all the individuals that were in the forest that were in the jungle that were in the ocean are gone.

So that's the magnitude of the problem. And so what are the causes? Well, basically we're going to be very reductionist. It will be over population. We're too many. There are around more 300,000 people born every day. Second, over consumption. We consume too much. And third, we're still using carbon fossils. And those causes are being reflected on habitat loss. We have lost more than 60 percent of all the natural forest of the planet, and there's illegal trade and over population and over killing.

Just to give you an idea, in China, 100 million animals, mammals and birds are traded illegally every year. And it costs the market \$74 billion and it involves 40 million people. But this is driving a species to extinction and is driving habitats to be destroyed. We're losing the capability to maintain life in general and to maintain human life in particular. And we scientists have called this environmental services. And environmental services are all the benefits we get for free from the proper work of nature.

Just to give you two quick examples. One is a proper combination of the gases of the atmosphere to have life on Earth depends on the wild plants and animals. All the

drinking water that we have depends on the plants and animals and ecosystems of the planet. 75 percent of the crops that we use are pollinated by animals. And we're losing all of these because of our activities.

And as I say, the current pandemic is related to this. So this massive important problem has not been put in front as relevant to climate change. But we have good news for you today. And the good news is, although this is a gigantic problem with a magnitude that we might have never seen before, it can be solved. The data can be reversed. The good news is that if we put our efforts together, we can start to reverse the trend. The bad news is that the window of opportunity is closing. The first time we talked about this was in the 1990s. At that time we had 34 years now we have no more than 10 to 15 years to change the trends. What I have said is related to human activities and hasn't experienced yet the full blown effect of climate change and the global disruption. Once all these natural ecosystems start to feel and react to the climate change, the problems will be gigantic.

Species and population extinction is one of the most important challenges for humanity and is something that we can solve, but we can only solve together. And let me finish with this. It was said in 1971 by Jean Dorst, a very important scientist from France, nature will only be safe if men loves simply because it's beautiful. For that too, it's an integral part of the human soul. Thank you very much.

#### **TREVOR NEILSON:**

Thank you so much, Gerardo. And now we're going to hand it over to Al MacCuish. Al is one of the most brilliant creative minds in the world. He spends his time thinking about brand for some of the biggest companies in the world and has developed a very innovative approach to attempt to try to address the collapse of ecosystems and species extinction around the world. And it's called People Versus Extinction.

#### **AL MACCUISH:**

Thank you, Trevor. And thank you, Gerardo. Thank you everybody. It's a real privilege to be a part of this conversation today. I'm definitely of the three of us, the latest to this subject matter and have been profoundly moved by the experience of the last nine months of working with Trevor and Gerardo on the subject. So if Gerardo had a theme that I could build on, it would be about people. This is a unique and epic problem on a magnitude that has never been experienced before. And we the people have created this problem. So, conversely from the background I come from, problems and solutions are the trade in that creativity can be applied to. A unique problem requires a unique solution, because conversely, whilst we the people have created the problem as Gerardo says, it is reversible. There is hope and there is possibility, but it requires we the people to be part of the solution to drive the solution and at scale.

From a mass behavior change in a mass communication perspective, we have a fundamental challenge because right now the subject matter and the themes and the threads are still to a large extent existing in the margins of culture, in the margins of society when they should be absolutely central and mainstream. So we've created People Versus Extinction as a platform to convene all of the different parties, all of the different expertise that is going to be required to act in concert to create mass

behavior change and create new demand cultures around solutions to the climate emergency, and looking actually at some of the sacrifices we're inevitably going to have to make.

This is really about bringing the issue, the fight, the solutions, the actions and the inevitable sacrifices to the mainstream and popularizing them. It's about mass awareness, deep understanding that leads to action and sacrifice. The fundamental challenge cannot be ignored. One of the many consequences of the last 30 years has been the sheer abundance of everything, including the demand on consumers' attention. So we haven't developed as a species in order to be able to process the number of demands. We live in an attention economy. People are much more naturally inclined to give their attention to things that are either within their control or within their aspirational sets than they are to things that are out with their control.

One of the challenges that I observe as somebody coming into this issue is that to a large extent, it tends to find its way into people's consciousness via news. And quite rightly so because news's job is to report the things that are of the urgency in society at a local and a global level. The issue however is that it tends to present the most dramatic and the most negatively impactful aspects of the emergency without necessarily then counterpointing that with the solution. So what you end up with are heuristics and tropes around climate emergency, which invoked fear. And fear is incredibly problematic when it comes to mass communication and mass behavior change, because we do not cope as a species particularly well with threat and fear and challenge. We all understand the roots of the fight or flight mechanism.

Most people will naturally choose to avoid something that is conflict driven or invokes fear, unless it truly is on their own doorstep. And part of the issue is that it can often be seems as if things are happening in other parts of the world and it doesn't necessarily relate to you, when, of course, as Gerardo and all the scientists understand, the entire thing is interconnected. So if we don't believe that we can win this battle, then it's actually already lost. So that's a major, major challenge.

Now, I come from the world of demand culture, creating demand, creating understanding. The thing that we are going to be able to bring to this particular project is world-class expertise, hopefully resources, creativity, and understanding of the mechanisms and levers and enormous sophistication required to become part of the collective consciousness. This cannot exist only in the margins. This has to become mainstream. For it to become mainstream, it has to become popular, to become populist. So there is a great deal of work to do in order to counterpoint the negative representation of the impact, which is important. But we still have to be able to shine a spotlight in championing the solutions and the people who are actually doing something about it, and then being able to present where people have some agency in solution and change.

So People Versus Extinction's mission is actually really about connecting the dots, to galvanize the scientific community, the conservation community, and the factual entertainment community, which I think is going to play an incredibly important role in this. But also to Trevor's point about the hundreds of companies that have the greatest impact on this issue, bringing the brand and the business community into the mainstream, into the center, along with a philanthropic community, which has got a vital and pivotal role to play in this mission.

None of us are as powerful as all of us. That's our central mantra here. We are junction makers and conveners of collective actions. So from an approach perspective, it's deceptively simple. If this is about mass awareness leading to mass understanding, leading to mass action and behavior change, then we need to have two critical components working in concert. It starts with data and starts with science and it starts with facts, and that being underpinned. So, Gerardo and his team have already done an extraordinary amount of work in aggregating large data sets that are able to make sense of what is actually happening in as near as real-time as possible on the ground.

We're very fortunate to have had the commitment from an organization called Stamen who are the world's leading data visualization specialists who are going to help us build a digital species extinction sensor. We have James Honeyborne who was the creator of Blue Planet II, and one of the pioneers of using social video content to link to measurable actions within culture. And it's been able to mine that data, translate it into powerful story, and then connect all of that effort with conservation efforts. And we have Jeff Morgan as director of programs and operations from Global Conservation who is going to act as convener for the conservation project community, to be able to give us access to the positive solutions that are taking place that we can then popularize. And those two things combined equal momentum, and hopefully building a community of great interest so that we can aggregate action and change. Thank you.

#### **TREVOR NEILSON:**

Well said. We need all of you to join us. We're currently looking for founding partners for People Versus Extinction. And if you're interested in being involved and if you care about the climate emergency and the effect on species extinction and ecosystem collapse, which we all should care about because we're a part of those ecosystems, we would really welcome you to join us. The best way to do that is to reach out to Derek, derek@peoplevextinction.com.

We would love for you to join us because when these ecosystems and these species are gone, they're gone forever. I have a four year old and I'm terrified of the notion that he will only know about animals from books and from stuffed animals. It's something that I don't think any of us can tolerate. So with that, we'll close. An administrative note. You can now please join the Global Philanthropy Forum team and your fellow conference attendees for a speed networking event. You join from the link in the agenda that I believe you've received. So thank you for having us. We'd love for you to all be a part of People Versus Extinction. Please reach out to us if we can involve you in it.

# KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND COLLABORATION IN CLIMATE FUNDING

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16  
11:30 AM

## **DOUGLAS GRIFFITHS**

PRESIDENT, THE OAK FOUNDATION @AMBGRIFITHS

## **JENNIFER KITT**

CEO, CLIMATE LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

## **CHARLOTTE PERA**

CEO, CLIMATEWORKS FOUNDATION @PERACHARLOTTE

## **MODERATOR NICHOLAS TEDESCO**

PRESIDENT AND CEO, NATIONAL CENTER FOR FAMILY PHILANTHROPY  
@TEDESCONICHOLAS

## **NICK TEDESCO:**

Welcome, everyone. We're so thrilled that you're able to join us today for what we hope will be an engaging conversation on collaboration. Thank you to the forum for dedicating this year's conference to one of the most critical issues of our time. Over the past few days, we've heard from a number of leading experts on the gravity of the climate crisis. However, it bears repeating that time is paramount, and that each of us must reflect on how we can come together to work towards solutions. Philanthropy must continue to adapt and coordinate efforts, align funding and enable informed decision making across stakeholders.

Funders who partnered together are able to scale impact far beyond what their own individual actions can produce. Collaboration provides a number of benefits to donors in the field. It provides knowledge and expertise. It sources and monitors partnerships with local stakeholders. It mobilizes more resources than any one individual funder can do alone, and it connects funders to like-minded peers.

Today, we're excited to explore a number of topics as a group, including effective partnerships in climate and pathways to engage, the benefit to funders and value to the field of using intermediaries to drive impact, and an exploration of what makes a collaborative successful and how to measure impact and success. Now that I've set the stage for the conversation, let's welcome our panelists. Today, I'm excited to welcome three esteemed experts, Doug Griffiths, president of the OAK Foundation, Jennifer Kitt, founding president of the Climate Leadership Initiative, and Charlotte Pera, president and CEO of ClimateWorks Foundation.

Thank you all for joining us.

## **JENNIFER KITT:**

It's great to be here.

## **NICK TEDESCO:**

Great. Well, I'm thrilled that we're all able to have this conversation. I thought that we would start out with some brief introductions. Charlotte, perhaps we can start with you.

## **CHARLOTTE PERA:**

Absolutely. Thank you, Nick. I'm really delighted to be here and to be on this panel with you and Doug and Jen. Just a few words about the ClimateWorks Foundation, we are on a mission to end the climate crisis by amplifying the power of philanthropy. We work with partners to shape and scale big climate solutions, and we offer philanthropists programs and services to help them build and execute their own climate strategies. We take a global approach. For example, our programs target global transformations that are necessary to meet the Paris climate goals, like decarbonizing the industrial sector, protecting forests, aligning public and private finance with climate goals, and so forth.

Our services include providing global intelligence, supporting collaborations, and grant making. Since we were founded in 2008, we have awarded well over a billion dollars to more than 500 grantees working around the world. Just one more point, to the theme of this conference, we design all of our programs and services to support



and encourage collaboration among funders and further among funders, grantees and other leaders and experts.

**NICK TEDESCO:**

Great. Thanks, Charlotte. Jennifer.

**JENNIFER KITT:**

Thanks, Charlotte and Nick. My name is Jennifer Kitt. I'm coming to you today from the San Francisco Bay Area. Charlotte and I are both there, actually. We're happy to report that the sky is clearer now. I lead the Climate Leadership Initiative, which is one of those collaboratives that Charlotte was mentioning. Our role is to help donors learn about climate, and scale their giving. We don't charge for that, and we don't pool funds or fund raise in any way, so we're free to serve the donors and to connect them to high impact climate mitigation solutions as quickly as possible for funding.

Collaboration is one of the things that we teach to new funders. It's a pleasure to be here with all of the philanthropists on the phone today.

**NICK TEDESCO:**

Thank you, Jennifer. Doug.

**DOUG GRIFFITHS:**

Thanks, Nick, and good evening from Geneva, Switzerland. I'm the president of Oak Foundation. Oak is a family-led foundation with its headquarters here in Geneva, but we have offices in North Carolina and London, and then country programs in Zimbabwe, Denmark, India and Brazil. We commit our resources to address issues of global, social and environmental concerns, particularly those that have a major impact in the lives of the disadvantaged. We do about \$300 million a year in grant making across a wide variety of programs in that area.

Our climate strategy is to protect clean air, build healthy, resilient communities, and create jobs in the clean energy sector. Emerging work revolves around the use of coal. That's the biggest source of climate pollution, plastics, the global food supply chain, climate justice, and supporting campaigns and movements. We love to collaborate. I'm very fortunate to have rich collaboration with both Charlotte and Jennifer, so it's exciting to be here tonight.

**NICK TEDESCO:**

Great. Well, again, thank you all for joining us. I would also mention to the audience that we welcome any questions along the way. We've got some pre prepared, but please feel free to submit your questions, and we will read them out. I would like to start with the core of this discussion, collaboration. Charlotte, can you speak about why collaboration is important in climate?

**CHARLOTTE PERA:**

It's so important. As I think we all know, climate change is arguably the greatest challenge that humanity faces. It's ultimately an existential threat, but more

immediately, if we fail to meet this challenge, the amount of suffering we are going to see in the years and decades ahead, and that we're seeing now every day in the news is really staggering. It's horrifying. We have to solve this problem. We can, but tackling climate change is not simple. We need to literally transform the global economy.

The world needs to spend trillions of capital on solutions. We need to transform entire sectors, like electricity and the transportation industry. We will need to remove massive amounts of CO2 from the atmosphere through natural solutions, like planting trees or better agricultural practices and technical solutions. We need to do all of this and more, and we can. There are plenty of studies that show that we can. To me, they're big tasks. That means that collaboration is really crucial in and across philanthropy, civil society, governments, the private sector, in and across regions and countries if we are going to succeed.

Fortunately, climate funders recognize this early on, and created and support organizations like ClimateWorks, like CLI that Jen leads to help funders engage and connect, work together on climate, and make the most of their combined intellectual and financial resources. That is why philanthropy is making a very real difference in this big and complex challenge. I just have to note, and I'm sorry to embarrass you, Doug, but the Oak Foundation really has been an extraordinary leader for many years in driving collaboration and philanthropy and climate and in other areas as well.

**NICK TEDESCO:**

That's a great point. I'd love to actually move to Doug to explore the perspective of the funder. Doug, what inspires the Oak Foundation to collaborate, and what are some of the lessons that you've learned along the way?

**DOUG GRIFFITHS:**

Well, I think, especially in the climate phase, as Charlotte pointed out, the challenge is just absolutely enormous. It's beyond the scope of anything any individual can do, which is why we work through the ClimateWorks and the Climate Leadership Initiative. The only way to advance climate action is really through purposeful collaboration. We collaborate to amplify and accelerate our goals, and it's been a very successful approach for us. Working alongside others is really the core of Oak's approach on climate.

I'd like to share four lessons that we have, which is what we wanted to share on why we collaborate and what we've learned from it. The first is focus on big picture goals and flexibility and how to get there. Collaboration means you can't be too rigid in how you interpret strategies. Too many funders get bogged down in the details, their own individual organization's way of doing things, and in the end, find it easier to go alone. Climate in particular is an area where we really need to rally together.

We need to collaborate radically and target specifically. That means we can't afford to get weighed down in the details. That was really the key to the success of the plastics initiative. It's something we're trying to replicate with our healthy diet, healthy planet initiative that ClimateWorks, among others, are helping us work on, where we hope to get vegans on the same buses as locavores in the hope that by working together without focusing on too many details and with great humility, we can make progress.

The second one is to use your networks to avoid reinventing the wheel. Whenever we're exploring a new area, we approach our contacts and our partners who are already in the field. That's the key to learning things. I was in government for over 30 years, and I was always struck by vanity projects of new administrations or new leaders. I was pretty disappointed that you see the same thing in philanthropy. I think, once again, humility goes a long way. I think the example there would be we were early funders of the European Climate Foundation, where our united voices have really played an amazing role in mobilizing \$1 trillion in commitments for the Green Deal, which will be the largest public investment in European history. The aim is to cut emissions by 55% by 2030, which is really quite extraordinary.

The third lesson for us is building, learning, and information sharing in collaborations from the beginning. That's related to my point earlier. Someone might have a better strategy. Some new entrant might have a new idea. We need to be open to that. We need to learn from it. We need to pivot. I think the best example for that is one that probably you're all thinking right now is when the climate movement was electrified by these young activists who came out of this with passion and commitment.

We're trying to apply those learnings as well through the Urban Movement Innovation Fund. It's a pooled fund that focuses on cities as a venue for accelerated climate action, and supports local movements to unstick politics that I think around the world on the climate has not made as much progress as we might have hoped.

The last one, I'm going to have a negative lesson here too, which is to bring partners to the table early to co-create. That's been really successful for us with our work to get coal out of Southeast Asia. Working with local community campaigns, we've helped cancel 180 new coal plants, which is really extraordinary. Last, there have been cases where we've been less successful. The one that comes to mind is one that was filled with great intention from Oak Foundation, which we acknowledge that we were really focusing on global solutions and policy and mitigation, whereas much of our foundation is really focused on supporting vulnerable populations. It made sense for us to become the founding funders for the Climate Justice Resilience Fund, which is a collaborative dedicated to help communities hit by climate change. Particularly, women, indigenous groups and youth who have been left out of the climate conversation. However, despite solid grantmaking, the fund failed to attract much co-funding largely because we didn't do the collaborative work upfront. Hopefully, with great humility and great collaboration, we can work together to chart a new path for climate justice, because I think there's a lot of interest in that field right now of trying to bring just transition and climate justice work to drive grassroots efforts.

Those are four lessons learned for us.

#### **NICK TEDESCO:**

Those are great lessons. I'd actually love to hear a little bit more about the evolution of the Oak Foundation's approach. Is collaboration something that was always at the core of the work that you did? Did you come to it after trying to identify solutions by way of individual grantees and recognizing the need for collaboration?

#### **DOUG GRIFFITHS:**

Well, I think it's baked into our DNA. It's how our family likes to work, especially Christian Parker, who's the lead trustee for climate. That's just the way his brain works. He wants to know what other people are doing. He's really, I think, cognizant that other people have great ideas, and that through complementarity, you can really work better. I will admit that there is a real utilitarian reason for us to collaborate so much. That's because the family has decided that to really be true to its family foundation, they're limiting the number of employees we can have.

We have a budget of 300 million, a limit of fewer than 100 employees, and great ambition across the foundation. You've really got a task to collaborate. I would love to have more inspirational words for people, but I think for us, it's not only part of our nature, but it's also part of necessity.

#### **NICK TEDESCO:**

That's a brilliant point to emphasize here, the use of using intermediaries as sourcing opportunities, and to maximize impact. Jen, I'd love to bring you into the conversation for any additional reflections. What do you see that inspires funders to collaborate, and what are some of the lessons that you've seen across your experience?

#### **JENNIFER KITT:**

Well, maybe I'll just build on what Doug said. The Oak Foundation and others actually created regional climate foundations like the European Climate Foundation that you just heard about and others so that the capacity could be shared. That's something really important for new funders to know that there are organizations that are actually scaled up sophisticated program teams in particular places that are important to climate, that the early funders recognized were going to be necessary but not just for themselves.

They built it for all of the funders who come after to use, and that's an example of collaboration to build capacity that now is available. You hear it even in some of Doug's examples about project collaboration, right? We have collaboration to know how these sophisticated funders want to give now because they're sharing information, much of it provided by Charlotte's organization, and knowing, "Okay, you've got this region. I can think about this one," but you've also got project-based things like the Urban Movement Innovation Fund, where they're seeking to connect the technical sector, decarbonization strategies that Charlotte was talking about.

You've got to decarbonize transportation, very complex, intricate strategy, but you've got to also have people who vote and people who want it on the ground, putting the kinds of pressure on that gets that change to happen from that side to how do you join up those strategies when there's such different organizations working on them? That was an issue that the team at Oak and others saw, workshopped it with a group and then came up with this idea, got a great leader, and it's now pooled fund ready to scale.

There are other examples like that. It's good to know how it's done, and that it's easy to collaborate even if you're new.

#### **NICK TEDESCO:**

Great. Any other reflections that you see that bring donors to the table to collaboratives?

**JENNIFER KITT:**

From my perspective, CLI generally works with folks who are new to climate. Most of the time, they want to know what their peers are doing and why, and they need a simple way to see that, because if they start to meet with Kristian Parker, meet with Chris Hahn, meet with Jeremy and Hanne Grantham, it takes them a very long time to rationalize all these ideas. Part of what we do is actually try and isolate for them, “This is what the climate community is doing. Here’s funding. This is why. These are the big bets. These are the areas that nobody’s in, because there’s not enough philanthropy yet actually, in this space.”

Then generally, first investments tend to be like, “Okay, let’s go along with an organization we trust or a person we trust in a particular strategy, or we’re very interested in this geography. Show us how to collaborate in that space.” Most of the time, people start that way. Over time, they learn how to give impactfully.

**NICK TEDESCO:**

Great, so it’s very much an emergent strategy. Brilliant. I’d like to stay with you, Jen, and to talk about some of the hesitations that you hear and how to move beyond them and how to activate as a donor. We know that many philanthropists are inspired to act, but many are uncertain how to do so. What are some of those hesitations that you hear, and what would you say for donors that are considering collaboration, how they might activate?

**JENNIFER KITT:**

I think many of the obstacles I’ve noticed in the first 15, 16 months of the Climate Leadership Initiative are really around the complexity Charlotte mentioned. Solving climate is quite complicated. There are many important levers that have to be turned in any one of these areas. At its basis, you have to stop emissions. That’s already hard, because think of all the places that we’re relying on fossil fuels that have to be transitioned in a just and equitable way.

You have to protect and preserve nature, which is serving this miraculous function of taking carbon out of the atmosphere. Then all of our models also say that you have to scale up some version of carbon removal. Those are the three big categories of what has to be done, but the intricacy of how you do it and what strategies are right for philanthropy can feel overwhelming in a learning curve. What I usually advise and what all of us at CLI advise is have a bit of a framework so that you understand those three big areas of what has to happen in the world, and then start to narrow in on what’s most interesting to you, and find collaborators.

That could be strategies. That could be organizations that you trust, but get in there quickly because there’s such urgency with this problem that learning while doing is actually the way to go, and scale as quickly as possible, because given the fact that climate philanthropy is less than 2 percent of global philanthropy, there’s lots of room for new entrants. The obstacle is usually complexity, and having a framework and having some peers to learn with and deal with usually is the way to get past that barrier.

**NICK TEDESCO:**

I would love to bring in an issue that we generally hear, that is a hesitation for families. That is the issue of control. Doug, maybe you can speak to this. How does the Oak Foundation think about the issue of control when you’re part of a collective? Is that a concern that you are in part using yourself in the collective?

**DOUG GRIFFITHS:**

I think that is perhaps a risk of collaboration, but I think especially in the climate phase, as both Jennifer and Charlotte pointed out, the urgency is such that we all need to get over that. As I said earlier, one of the lessons is you’re not going to get everything you want, necessarily. We’ve had a lot of, I think, internal debate and actually a lot of internal laughter as we look at the learnings from the plastic campaign that there were things where the interests of the trash pickers in India were not necessarily aligned with a consumer at my local grocery store who will only purchase in bulk.

You’ve just got to find ways to accommodate that. I started by working on the healthy diets campaign, because even within our family, there’s everything. You’ve got to find a way of, “Look, we all acknowledge that in order to be sustainable, we’ve got to find better ways to produce our food, and different ways to consume it.” We are very purposeful at Oak focused on Europe, because we feel that culturally, this is more relevant to us. We understand it. We don’t risk running afoul of various things.

You are going to lose some of your control when you collaborate. I really can’t think of an example at Oak where that has not been meaningful. If I can just give one little example, with the global commons, which is getting off the ground to figure out what the carrying capacity of planet Earth is, the intermediary who does annual reporting came to us and said, “Would you like us to do this quarterly?” I think many of us went, “Oh, that would be great,” but that is just such a burden on not only them, but all of the grantees down the line. We said, “No, let’s continue with annual reporting,” and so sometimes we have to take a deep cleansing breath, which I think is a good characteristic for life in general, but especially for collaboratives, and think about what’s going to get us to our destination.

**NICK TEDESCO:**

I think one thing that I would also share for the audience is think about the governance model of the collaboration, right? Think about what is being asked of you, and where there’s opportunities to participate, and be proactive about that. I hear what you’re saying, Doug, around the need to outweigh the benefits from the risk, right? That’s important. Charlotte, I’d love to bring you back into the conversation to highlight collaboration in action, and share an example of what you’ve seen.

**CHARLOTTE PERA:**

Happy to. Lots of examples that one could share, many of which have come up already. Doug and Jen have raised some really good examples. Here’s one. One of our major initiatives focuses on electric vehicles. It’s essentially about reducing greenhouse gas emissions from road transport, so cars, trucks, buses, etcetera to near zero by mid-century largely by making sure that in the next five years, we get to a

market tipping point where electric vehicles just out compete combustion vehicles, and rapidly take over the global market.

Lots of reasons to believe this is possible, and we do. It's also not inevitable. Philanthropy really has an important role to play here. Fortunately, this is an area where philanthropy has been active and collaborative for many years, so we have a lot to work with. For example, about four years ago, we launched a global coalition of allies working to advance electric vehicles. That coalition has now grown to more than 50 organizations, environmental organizations, health organizations, and foundations and others working together in this space.

There are also about a dozen foundations now that are funding this work together. We aligned about \$45 million for this work in 2020. That's not enough. As Jen knows well, this number needs to increase at least fourfold in short order, but it's a big improvement on past years. Why does this kind of collaboration matter? Let me just give one really specific example that's very recent. Back in June, just a few months ago, California adopted a first in the world rule to require manufacturers to transition to electric trucks. That's trucks of all sizes starting in 2024. That's a very big deal. Some months before, a number of funders, including ClimateWorks, who were already collaborating, we're already aligned on strategy, quickly aligned resources to support a group of about 20 organizations, environmental justice organizations, health groups, business groups, labor community groups, to come together and press for a strong rule. They were successful, which is really exciting. As soon as California had adopted that rule, then the larger global coalition began to work right away to urge other U.S. states, other countries, to adopt similar rules.

This is obviously still playing out. It's very new, but we are optimistic. It's a good example of the power of collaboration and ongoing collaboration to drive change on the scale that we need.

#### **NICK TEDESCO:**

Fantastic, really helpful. A number of questions are coming in, so I'll pause in a moment to ask some of them, but please continue to send them in. Before we do that, Jennifer, I want to talk about success. Can you talk about what makes a collaborative successful?

#### **JENNIFER KITT:**

I think I'm going to do what I did before, and actually just pick one of the examples you've heard and unpack it for learning. The transportation, the road transportation example you just heard is a marvelous example of a group of nonprofits collaborating. Actually, more than 70 of them have constructed this fantastic strategy to flip passenger vehicles and more complicated freight trucks from emissions, one of the sectors we have to move off of from the polluting tailpipe to electric within a five-year period with a very nuanced set of strategies.

They've picked four regions to focus on because it's a global market. If you flip those four regions, you can flip everything ultimately. It's super exciting, but the thing is you can collaborate as a philanthropist, because the NGOs came together with lots of good work by ClimateWorks and others, and created that strategy. They can explain it. They can show early wins. They've actually raised the first 45 million towards it.

It makes it very easy for a new philanthropist to be part of that and learn along the way, but also to have a really big impact. Not every area has that, right? That one's ready. That one's ready. There are areas where there's almost no philanthropy at all, and so the people who launched that and started early are actually willing to start something brand new in carbon removal or in decarbonizing concrete and steel and scaling that. Things like that would be much earlier stages.

Just unpacking that, you can see how special it is when you've got a strategy that you're ready to collaborate on when it's ready for funding. I wanted to share that.

#### **NICK TEDESCO:**

That's a really helpful example.

One of the audience members asked a question that is very timely and topical with a focus on equity. They're asking, "How do collaboratives center the communities at the front lines of climate change?" I will throw that out to the three of you and see who wants to take that.

#### **DOUG GRIFFITHS:**

Can I start and then you guys can provide more expertise?

#### **NICK TEDESCO:**

Please.

#### **DOUG GRIFFITHS:**

I think that's why we jumped into the Climate Justice Resilience Fund. It was actually part of a discussion of a major grant that we're giving to the ClimateWorks Foundation. As I said earlier, they recognize that there was significant work in the climate field from us. There was an earlier question on mitigation and adaptation on mitigation. Most of the work we do is housing and homelessness, and preventing child sexual abuse and issues affecting women and human rights across the foundation, really is focused on grassroots organizations and building those.

Our climate work was a bit of an outlier for a good cause, because if we don't have huge policy changes and huge shifts, we're not going to have a significant impact in the climate. The idea for a climate justice resilience fund was to bring more of that grassroots effort to look at the equity piece, which is extraordinarily complicated in this world that we all see. We're really working there. We're working in the Arctic. We're working in the Sundarbans of West Bengal and Bangladesh and the highlands of Africa.

Look, we see climate change everywhere, but the idea is just to try to empower grassroots organizations to look for solutions to the climate challenges they're facing. I think it's similar to the other things. It's a minor amount of money, but we hope that there can be some catalytic change with that.

**NICK TEDESCO:**

Well, I guess I would ask a follow-up question here, which is what is the feedback loop, the listening loop that is happening in these collaboratives that allows for that dialogue with communities that are affected by this work and if there is?

**CHARLOTTE PERA:**

I guess, I'll try to pick up that last question, Doug, but what I was going to add on the earlier question as well is just to add another strand to the example that I just gave around the California truck rule. A significant portion of that coalition that worked on that rule comprised frontline community groups who were representing people across the state, who especially suffer from diesel truck pollution. Often, those trucks are operating in corridors through lower income neighborhoods.

They have much higher incidence of asthma and so forth in those neighborhoods. Those are very persuasive and important voices when a broader group of advocates is pressing the stage to take aggressive action. That's one example. I don't know for sure, but I have no doubt. I mean, I don't know for sure what the mechanisms were, but I know that the funders that were supporting that coalition were in dialogue constantly with those grantees. I think there are some automatic feedback loops built in just in the way that we all work with great grantees.

**NICK TEDESCO:**

Great. Another question from the audience... Jen, did you want to jump in on this as well?

**JENNIFER KITT:**

I just wanted to add, the climate community would tell you that they haven't gotten this right over time, that this is actually new learning for them, and that we can't win without the voices of those who are most affected being at the table, not only because they can explain how it's impacting them, whether in the Global South or in disenfranchised communities in the United States, but also because they have innovative ideas for what the solutions are.

If you have a climate mitigation strategy that doesn't have an equity lens to it, you will fail. It's really important to know that, and that is actually a new thinking for the climate funding community, I would say. The Global Philanthropy Forum and the Climate Leadership Initiative co-hosted a whole webinar on that, and we can maybe put that in the chat so people can see it.

**NICK TEDESCO:**

I think that's an extraordinary point, Jen. Without that feedback loop, without the consideration of the communities, we will fail, right? We need to think about equity at the forefront of this. Another question that came in from the audience here, do you have best practices for supporting evidence-based climate action? Again, we'd love to take volunteers on who wants to triage this one. Is there anyone that wants to start?

**JENNIFER KITT:**

Evidence-based is Charlotte.

**DOUG GRIFFITHS:**

Exactly.

**CHARLOTTE PERA:**

I have lots of thoughts in response to that question, but I would say that the core of what we're doing in the climate funding community is sharing evaluations. There are quite a few foundations that will rigorously conduct often third party evaluations of strategies, of efforts, sometimes of individual grantees. In appropriate ways, I think we've gotten quite good as a community at sharing those evaluations so we can learn from them. There is a lot of learning that goes on in the climate funding community.

There's more needed, but we have a pretty good body of evidence so far that helps us think about what works and what doesn't. We need to do more of that, frankly.

**DOUG GRIFFITHS:**

I think for us, the ClimateWorks' information database, etcetera, that's our first go to. There was an earlier comment on the climate infrastructure that's been built up that Jennifer said people can jump into. Even for us who have been working on this issue for a long time, we really depend on that information, because we don't want to invest our own resources in being knowledge holders, right? The knowledge holders need to be our grantees.

They need to be our intermediaries and our collaborative partnerships that have the expertise and can drive it out to the field as necessary.

**NICK TEDESCO:**

Doug, let's stay with you for a moment here. Let's talk about the issue of impact, an oft talked about issue. How does the Oak Foundation measure success with its work with collaboratives and climate?

**DOUG GRIFFITHS:**

Probably, I should caveat this a few times. If you have a line of the foundations that are most data-driven, and impact measuring and monitoring, evaluation and learning scenes, we would be on the other side. We claim the success of our grantees. That's what we really look at is, "Do they have the structures in place to capture the learnings? Are they monitoring themselves effectively?"

We do look at evaluations, but we try to be flexible and supportive donors. We try to be core support donors or flexible project support if it's an area. We do learning differences in dyslexia in education, so we often don't do a core fund, but we say, "But within the dyslexia space, have at it." We try to do the same thing with our collaboratives, and try not to be overly prescriptive, and try to accept whatever measurements for success they have. We would love to be able to have in all of our collaboratives, "Okay, we prevented 180 coal fire plants to be constructed in Southeast Asia."



Unfortunately, that doesn't exist in all of them. Are we aiming for a 10% reduction in meat consumption in Europe in the next five years? Okay, but I think we're not the best to speak about that, but it is one of those moments that I think if you're going to jump into the collaborative, it's important to be clear with yourself what the success is, and that the collaborative has established that, but we generally will try not to define that for others. We hope that that will come organically from the collaborative, and along with that, have their monitor, evaluation, learning things in place.

#### **NICK TEDESCO:**

I think two great points that I would echo, that I would underscore here. The first is think about success for yourself, and then think about how the collaborative defines success. I think those are both brilliant points. On the latter point, Charlotte, I'd love to bring you in, and share how ClimateWorks thinks about this notion of success and how ultimately you define that for your community.

#### **CHARLOTTE PERA:**

Broadly speaking, the climate community, and ClimateWorks as well, is big on quantification, big on measurement. There are lots of ways to measure impact. For example, from a big picture scientific perspective, you want to look at metrics like annual global greenhouse gas emissions, accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, change in global average temperature rise compared to pre-industrial levels. Those are the big indicators that tell us whether or not we're getting on track to meet climate goals, and give us a sense of the likely impacts we're facing.

There are other ways to measure impact. For example, and this is very important, as Doug said, in collaborations, if you pick a specific goal, a specific strategy, then you want to measure relevant indicators, like the example Doug gave of 180 coal plants that were prevented from being built in Southeast Asia. How quickly are sales of electric vehicles growing? How quickly are we installing new capacity of solar and wind? What's the year-on-year increase in private capital that's directed to climate solutions?

Those kinds of indicators, those are more market indicators. You can also measure policy outcomes like, "How many governments or corporations have signed up for net zero targets, or committed to procure low emissions, low carbon materials?" We look at all of those kinds of metrics, but when it comes to success, Nick, I just want to share a quote that I thought was really important and really struck me. This is from a June New York Times article, titled "Black Environmentalists Talk about Climate and Anti-Racism," so a quote from Heather McGhee, who is a senior fellow at Demos. She said, "Success is measured by the improvement in the environmental and economic health of the people who have borne the brunt of our carbon economy." I thought that was really a powerful way to measure success, and one that we should be constantly mindful of in doing our work.

#### **NICK TEDESCO:**

I think that's a brilliant way to end our program. We've got about four minutes left. I would love to do a bit of a last round with each of you as we come to a close, and we issue a bit of a call to action. What advice would you give to the audience? How might

the people listening move towards action? What resources are available? What would you ask of everyone that is listening here? We didn't talk about this beforehand, but Doug, why don't I start with you?

#### **DOUG GRIFFITHS:**

Okay. Well, I'm going to take the easy way out. I would say learn from Charlotte. Listen to Jennifer, and join us. That's a cheesy answer. Look, I mean, there's just so much need, and there are so many amazing ideas out there. We recently at the Oak Foundation and our environment team had a strategy day, and we're going to try to fund eight campaigns with a million dollars of grassroots organizations. We had all of our program officers and the whole staff present ideas.

I went to every idea, and it's like, "Oh my God, we got to do that." There were things that I just had never thought about, that are just incredibly important, and people are doing amazing work. I would learn from Charlotte, and listen to Jennifer, and just dive in and do your best.

#### **NICK TEDESCO:**

Great. Wonderful advice. Let's move to Charlotte.

#### **CHARLOTTE PERA:**

I love that question. Thank you for asking that. We absolutely need more funders and funding in the space. There is a lot more to do, and there are just really great groups and campaigns and strategies all around the world to fund. When it comes to resources, there are lots of resources out there. You could read publications like Drawdown or Exponential Roadmap. Others, you could do a whole range of experts. You could join a funder collaborative on a topic of interest.

We've cataloged more than 70 of these now that are focused on climate mitigation topics alone, but the main point I would like to make is that one of the challenges of planning in the climate space, and Jen referenced this earlier, is that it can just feel overwhelming. It is complex. There are a lot of resources out there, and it can be hard to pull this together and set where and how to invest. That is true even for very experienced climate funders.

That's why foundations like Oak and others support organizations like mine, like Jen's. That can help. For example, with the support of Oak and others, we make our services freely available to funders who are interested in the landscape of solutions and opportunities and where funding is going and how to engage with the wider climate philanthropy ecosystem. We design our programs to make it easy for funders to support high impact strategies, and move money quickly to great groups on the ground, and work with others for maximum impact.

All of this to say, if you have questions, if you're interested in expanding your climate philanthropy or whatever you have in mind, please don't hesitate to contact ClimateWorks. You can contact me directly, or just make use of the resources available on our website. We are here to help.

**NICK TEDESCO:**

Great. I'm sure people will absolutely reach out. Jen, closing thoughts.

**JENNIFER KITT:**

Thank you. Two main things, one, it is actually harder to solve climate change than it is to fund effectively, so don't be worried. The funding part is the easy part. As Charlotte and Doug both said, and as you've heard in the examples, there are lots of great scalable things that are just starved for resources, because so many people thought governments would solve this problem, and they haven't. There are really interesting, unique leverage points for philanthropy. We just have to scale the funding.

The second point is you don't have to define yourself as a climate funder or even an environmental funder to enter this space. If you are a philanthropist or an organization thinking about this, and you don't want to step up and you don't want to make this your mission, just make it part of your portfolio, because what we know for sure is that whatever you care about most for your philanthropy is going to be impacted by this issue. Getting upstream of that and giving some funding to it would help those of us who are working on it directly to make the impacts we need on the very short timeframes we have.

Come on in. The water's fine.

**NICK TEDESCO:**

That's a perfect note to end on. I want to thank each of you for your wise wisdom and your time. To all of you that are listening, I hope that you'll embrace the spirit of collaboration, and join forces with your peers to act now. This is an urgent need, and the moment is now. Thank you, Charlotte. Thank you, Doug. Thank you, Jen.

**DOUG GRIFFITHS:**

Thank you, Nick.

**JENNIFER KITT:**

Thank you, Nick.

**NICK TEDESCO:**

Before we close, just a brief announcement. We hope that everyone will join the closing session, When Indigenous Wisdom Shapes National Policy with Juan Manuel Santos, former president of Colombia, which starts in a few minutes at 12:25, Pacific Time. Again, thank you all for listening, and thank you to the panelists. You're all doing extraordinary things. Thank you, GPF.

# WHEN INDIGENOUS WISDOM SHAPES NATIONAL POLICY— A CONVERSATION WITH NOBEL PRIZE WINNER AND FORMER PRESIDENT JUAN MANUEL SANTOS

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16  
12:25 PM

## JUAN MANUEL SANTOS

FORMER PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA @JUANMANSANTOS

## MODERATOR PHILIP YUN

CEO, WORLD AFFAIRS @PHILIPWYUN

## PHILIP YUN:

We are here now for the last session of GPF. Over the last three days, we've all tried to provide each other with new insights on climate change and evidence-based options for action. We've gathered here at GPF, albeit virtually, for us to consider what impact we can make for the greater good. Yet simply presenting forceful facts and new perspectives is not enough. I think people generally know what the right thing to do is, intellectually and big picture. They completely understand the climate is getting warmer and that this is ultimately a bad thing. What is just as crucial and something that has been a common theme throughout this whole conference is getting people to actually do something and to do something collectively. But this is incredibly hard to accomplish, and it requires the ability, I would say a gift, to create emotional and causal connections to words, ideas and connections that convince people they have control, they have purpose, and they can make a difference.

And oftentimes these words are organized into compelling narratives that somehow change behavior and set what were seemingly radical policy agendas. So with this as a preface, I am just so delighted to be here with the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize recipient President Juan Manuel Santos who knows something about what it takes to motivate and move a deeply divided population into common action.

As you know well, President Santos was honored by the Nobel Committee for his pivotal role in ending the 50 year civil war in his country of Colombia. And he's also well-known for being a staunch advocate for protecting the environment and ending poverty through innovative policies and grassroots organizing. And so as we close GPF 2020, we are turning to President Santos for optimism, hope and inspiration. President Santos welcome so much. It's just a privilege for you to join us and for us to host you. You're joining us from Colombia, right?

## JUAN MANUEL SANTOS:

Right. Thank you very much. I'm very honored to participate in this very important event. And I hope that we can provide some good ideas of how to tackle the difficult but challenging future that we have.

## PHILIP YUN:

You recently declared at the World Economic Forum that "humanity and nature are further out of alignment than ever before." From this statement and from your writings and speeches, you clearly hold dear the idea that all people are connected to the earth organically. And within that context, you are outspoken about the need to incorporate the priorities of indigenous populations around the world, essentially social equity.

So with the threats from declining biodiversity, more flooding from sea level rise, fires burning hotter, longer, and more widespread and even the global pandemic. These are all affecting the poor and the weak more so. So, what can the global community do in your mind to restore what you think is this balance?

**JUAN MANUEL SANTOS:**

Well, I learned from the indigenous communities when I first met them how important it is to understand precisely the connection with nature. And they gave me a perfect example. It was a river, a very important river in Colombia that was having a lot of problems, a lot of floods. Wetlands were being destroyed. And they showed me that if you understand that the river has life and that it reacts to whatever the human being does to it, then you will start respecting the river and respecting what surrounds the river.

And that was a great lesson for me, because from there, I understood the connection with other priorities that we should have today in terms of maintaining our biodiversity and fighting climate change. And as a matter of fact, in Colombia, we were the ones who proposed the SDGs back in the year 2012. And you all know about the negotiation and how this came about.

And I took to the indigenous communities the SDGs, and I told them, “Look, this is something that has been done on your behalf.” Because they were the guardians of nature. And they studied the SDGs and said, “Well, we think that’s a step in the right direction. But it’s lacking something very important.” And I said, “What?” And they said, “The spiritual component. The world needs to understand that all these SDGs, that all the objectives, you can only reach them if you feel in your insight that you’re dealing with something that is at the same level.” And I asked him, “What do you mean?” And they very simply explained to me. “The humans have tried to dominate nature, and that is a big mistake. Nature has to be treated as an equal, and you have to live with nature and live by the laws of nature. Otherwise nature will get mad and will react.”

And I suffered that. I suffered that. And they advised me that I was going to suffer that. We had the worst Niña phenomenon about a month after they told me this. And they said, “This is the way nature reacts when it feels that it’s been mistreated.” So that aspect, I think, is extremely important. We need to understand that the trees have life, that the rivers have life. That nature is a basic component of our wellbeing and that we have to treat nature with respect. And that, for me, was a great, great lesson.

**PHILIP YUN:**

So, you mentioned the UN Sustainable Development Goals or the SDGs. You’ve been a champion for those. And you’ve been working for many years using those as a way to eradicate poverty. Can policies designed to eradicate poverty, also impact climate in positive ways? We have so many people here who are involved in philanthropy, who are funders. Are there clear connections between philanthropic work, the SDGs and climate change, and what more in your mind can be done?

**JUAN MANUEL SANTOS:**

Oh, yes. There is a very clear connection. And I will give you a specific example. In Colombia and also Brazil, we’re having a tremendous problem with deforestation, which has a terrible impact on the world. And one of the causes of deforestation is poverty. So trying to fight poverty will directly impact deforestation, to lessen the rate of deforestation or if possible, reverse it. And therefore there is a connection. And there are ways more effective to fight poverty.

We started in Columbia. There was the pilot project, now about 60 countries have it, to measure poverty in a different way. The traditional way, the way that the World Bank and the IMF and many international organizations measure poverty, is by income. Well, there are many theories and I mentioned specifically a former professor of mine, Amartya Sen, who afterwards won the Nobel Prize in Economics who said, “No, no. This is a wrong way to measure poverty. You have to measure poverty according to the basic needs of families, address those needs, and that will help you fight poverty in a more effective way.” And I did that. And for the last 10 years, Columbia has been probably the country in the whole region, the whole of Latin America, where poverty and extreme poverty has been lowered the most. Because it allowed the government to focus the aspects that have the largest impact on fighting poverty.

**PHILIP YUN:**

We’ve got a whole slew of questions and I’ll try to integrate them as best we can. We only have about 20 minutes or so. It’s not a lot, but we’ll see what we can do. So very quickly, let’s talk about climate change specifically. You alluded to that just a few moments ago. But what is Columbia doing directly, how it’s being affected by climate change, and what do you see are promising efforts that they’re starting to use in order to mitigate?

**JUAN MANUEL SANTOS:**

Well, we are very vulnerable to climate change because we are one of the richest countries in terms of biodiversity. We are the most biodiverse country per square kilometer on the whole planet. So biodiversity affects us very much. And we started protecting biodiversity by enlarging the protected areas of the country where the biodiversity is concentrated. And also giving the indigenous communities a much more important role in protecting the forest and the biodiversity. They are really the ones who really feel the importance of doing this so they are ideal partners in that venture. And we have been not only protecting the areas inland, but also we have two oceans. The Atlantic, the Caribbean, and the Pacific. And there we have also a very rich environment and we have been protecting those areas. And we also put in place, the first country in Latin America, a carbon tax with a specific objective to finance all that is needed for the protected areas to effectively work.

Many countries have protected areas, but you go there and they’re not really protected in practice. So we did that. And I think that is working quite well. We need to do a lot more to fight deforestation and we have to continue doing something extremely important. We are a very rich country in oil and coal, and we have to change our paradigm to go into renewable energies. That takes a lot of persuasion because the economic incentive to continue producing coal and producing oil is very big, as you all know. And so there the work of the world and of all the organizations is to understand the importance of this change towards renewable energies is very, very important at this time, especially after the pandemic. We want to build back better. I think that’s one key aspect.

**PHILIP YUN:**

Well, speaking of the pandemic, which is something we obviously need to ask you about, and I think others want to know about the situation in Colombia politically as well. So how is Columbia fairing in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and is that affecting the peace negotiations and the discussions with the FARC that you worked on so hard during your eight years as president?

**JUAN MANUEL SANTOS:**

Well, we are not doing very well with the pandemic. We started doing very well, but unfortunately the rate of infection hasn't been maintained and we are now one of the countries with the highest number of people affected by a pandemic. We have not had as many people dying. But, unfortunately, the number is increasing. And I think we failed in doing a coordinated effort, especially on things like the way to put forward the exams and the following of the people who were infected. We came in there too late. And I think that was a mistake.

Now, the effect of the pandemic, as everywhere, has been devastating in economic terms and in social terms. And we're going back 10, 20, maybe 30 years in what we had advanced in equality and in poverty. And that of course is very bad for reconciliation. However, the peace agreement with the FARC, that is irreversible. That will not be affected. But violence and the presence of phenomena like drug trafficking and illegal crops will be stimulated by the consequences of the pandemic. So we have to be much more proactive in counteracting those effects.

**PHILIP YUN:**

So here's a question from the audience along those lines about conflict. So in your experience, does climate change necessarily lead to more conflicts or is there a basis to expect greater solidarity and collaboration in the face of a threat multiplier? In other words, can a pandemic or climate change really mobilize and be used to our advantage?

**JUAN MANUEL SANTOS:**

Well, unfortunately we thought that something like the pandemic would help diffuse conflicts, but that was not the case. Even the Secretary General of the UN made a call for a ceasefire in all the internal conflicts and nobody really paid much attention. And climate change, unfortunately, especially because of the migration that climate change produces, will increase tensions. And we have to be aware of that and hopefully try to make people understand that a way to avoid or mitigate conflict is also fighting climate change because the effect is not positive. The effect is negative.

**PHILIP YUN:**

So quickly. We have a few more minutes left. Two quick questions here I wanted to get in. So you recently joined the Elders Group. A group of independent global leaders committed to working together for peace and human rights. We've already heard from your fellow members, Chair, Mary Robinson, and Deputy Chair, Ban Ki-moon. What are your top takeaways, two takeaways for this group of philanthropists who are ready to take on climate change?

**JUAN MANUEL SANTOS:**

Well, first of all, we have to reverse the trend against multilateralism. If we don't cooperate more among countries and within countries, but especially among countries, it's going to be very difficult to address the issues that we are confronting after the pandemic. So that is one specific target. Strengthen multilateralism, strengthen the UN and what the UN represents and wants to achieve.

And the second point, which I think is directly concerned with this forum is you were talking about collective action. I am a great believer in the value of collective intelligence and collective action. And the role that the philanthropists can play is a very important role because the money and the investments and the programs that are funded by philanthropists are much better received by the communities than the money or the projects that are funded exclusively by governments or by the private sector. There's no political objectives, there's no profit. And usually it's more transparent.

And of course the Elders have always been advocates of fighting nuclear proliferation, which is one of the big dangers that this world has, unfortunately, still.

**PHILIP YUN:**

So we have maybe about 30 seconds left. I don't know if you can do it in this period of time. But people take so much inspiration from you and what you've been able to accomplish in Colombia when people thought there was a problem that was just impossible to solve. Are there words of encouragement that you can give us as we end GPF and we go out to make a difference and make an impact?

**JUAN MANUEL SANTOS:**

Well, you just mentioned it. Everybody in Colombia and in the region in Latin American thought that this war that we had with the oldest and strongest guerilla for over 50 years could not be ended. And we did. So there's a phrase that has been used very often here. We made possible what we thought was impossible. And I am absolutely convinced that every conflict can be solved if you have the correct incentives and you have the correct diagnosis of how to solve those conflicts. There is no conflict that cannot be solved.

**PHILIP YUN:**

Okay. With those words about doing the impossible, I want to thank you President Santos for taking the time and for being with us. Thank you so much.

**JUAN MANUEL SANTOS:**

Oh, thank you Philip, and thank you all. You do a great job and I'm very grateful and the world should be very grateful to all the philanthropists that do such good work and such important work.

**PHILIP YUN:**

Thank you.



So this brings us to the end of GPF 2020. Our first ever virtual conference, and my first as CEO of World Affairs and GPF. As I think back over the past three days, three things come to mind. First, time is of the essence. We are at an inflection point with climate change, and we must act now. I think Larry Kramer's call to action at the very beginning, is exactly what's needed. Please keep that in mind.

Secondly, I think we need to act... What I bring from the conference, we need to act locally. We have to experiment and we have to do it with others. Innovation is not going to come from national governments, but from social entrepreneurs like all of you connecting with smart people, like all of you in different intellectual spaces. Working together as a community to solve the big problems on the ground. I hope while you've been here virtually, you've met someone that you would not have met otherwise.

And finally, any meaningful movement on climate change cannot happen without the energy and drive of young people. Bill McKibben talked about 10 million Greta Thunbergs that are out there. He also raised, which I thought was interesting, was the idea of getting older people involved. I think that's a very interesting idea. In either case, both generations on both ends, they are pushing and they're pulling. And I think they are and have shown that they've made a difference in 2020, and I hope we can support their efforts.

So as we close, please remember what we started with, our touchstones. Insight, action and purpose. And we at World Affairs and GPF, will be working with you to follow-up on what actions we are going to be taking on as a community. And finally, before we sign off, I want to have you join me in thanking our entire staff. We've got Claire McMahon, Meghan Kennedy, and Carla Thorson. You just did an amazing job putting this all together. And I want to thank all of you for joining us from all over the world to participate in this event. And most importantly, following up with us as we try to deal with this very important problem of climate change. Everyone, please be safe and please stay healthy. Thank you so much.



## Global Philanthropy Forum

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