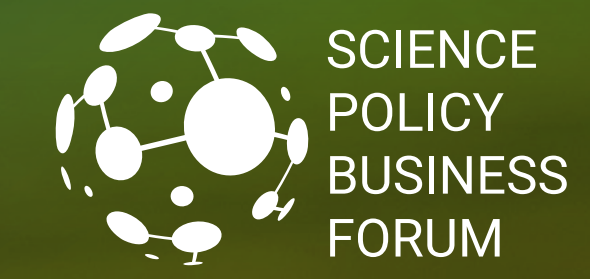


# UN SCIENCE-POLICY-BUSINESS FORUM ON THE ENVIRONMENT

**UN-SPBF Special Session @ UNEA-6**

**Integrated Solutions for  
People and the Planet**

27 February 2024, 08:00 – 18:30 hrs  
UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya



## Context

The United Nations Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment (UN-SPBF) serves as a comprehensive, multi-sectoral, and inter-agency platform. Its primary purpose is to facilitate collaboration and dialogue among various sectors, including science, policy, and business, in the pursuit of environmental objectives.

Inaugurated during the third United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-3) in December 2017, the Forum was established to address the need for a more integrated and dynamic interaction among these sectors, as requested by Member States.

Regionally, the Forum extends its activities to the Asia-Pacific and Africa, aligning with environmental ministerial processes. Additionally, it functions as the Secretariat for both the Data for the Environment Alliance (DEAL) and the Expert Group on Big Data and Frontier Technologies. For more information, visit their website at [www.un-spbf.org](http://www.un-spbf.org).

## Approach

The Forum's approach is pragmatic and oriented towards policy- and technology-driven solutions that assist in the realization of environmental goals. It emphasizes an "Integrated Solutions" approach to achieving environmental goals and to foster cooperation among its partners. The Forum and its community uphold the values of equity, ethics, transparency, diversity, and inclusion, as crucial for attaining a fair and sustainable future.

The Forum's Special Sessions at UNEA-6 concentrate on solution-driven thought leadership that aligns with UNEA's theme – "effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution" – and the Executive Director's Report. These sessions are crafted to provoke innovative and inclusive thinking, enriching the dialogue and action around achieving environmental goals and shaping the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)'s next Medium-Term Strategy. They encapsulate diverse perspectives from government, industry, finance, science, and society.

UN-SPBF's distinct approach, which bridges various stakeholders and sectors, not only amplifies the work of UNEP but also promotes a "One UN" approach. The Forum's sessions are organized to explore critical aspects from three perspectives:

**Policy Perspective:** Focusing on policy coherence, an all-encompassing government approach, safeguards, accountabilities, and the role of the multilateral system.

**Corporate Perspective:** Examining technology and financing solutions, business practices, resource efficiency, value chains, circularity, and transparency, and advocating for an all-encompassing economic approach.




**Societal Perspective:** Embracing an all-inclusive societal approach, the sessions engage major groups, youth, women, and indigenous communities.

Central to the Forum's operations is its foundation in science, ensuring that its initiatives and discussions are rooted in scientific understanding and evidence.

All three of UNEA-6 Special Sessions take place during one, high-impact day on 27 February. The morning session will focus on **Sector-Wide Transitions**, while the afternoon session will focus on **Financial and Economic Tools** and **Integrated Early Warning Systems**. The sessions are highly interactive, with star speakers and participants representing multiple sectors.

# Provisional Agenda

27 February 2024

Time	Session
07:30 – 08:30	<b>Arrival and Collection of Badges</b>
08:30 – 09:30	<b>Morning Coffee</b>
09:30 – 11:45	<b>TENT A</b> <b>High-Level Opening Session: Shaping Our Common Future</b>
09:30 – 11:45	<b>TENT A</b> <b>The Imperative for Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Value Chains</b>
12:00 – 13:00	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b>
	  
	<b>TENT A</b> Responsible Mining in a Resource-Hungry World
	<b>TENT B</b> The Urban Environment: The Near-Zero Buildings of the Future
	<b>TENT C</b> Thread Lightly: Unravelling the Fabric of Sustainable Fashion
13:00 – 14:00	<b>Lunch Break SPBF High Level Lunch (By Invitation Only)</b>
14:00 – 14:30	<b>TENT A</b> <b>Opening Plenary</b>
14:45 – 15:45	<b>TENT A</b> <b>High Level Panel: Tracking Financial Flows to Nature-based Solutions</b>

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15:50 – 16:50

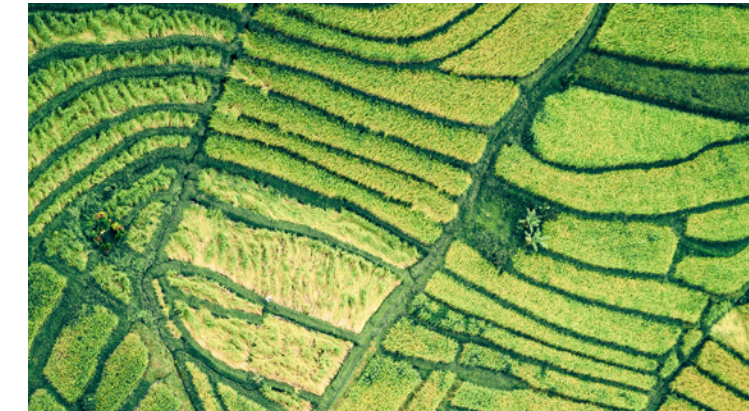
TENT B

**The Argument for High-Integrity Carbon Markets**

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17:05 – 18:05

**Concurrent Sessions**



TENT A

**Forecasting the Future:  
Towards Integrated Early  
Warning Systems for the  
Planet**



TENT B

**Building the Business  
Case for Soil Health**



TENT C

**The Cost of Climate &  
Nature Positive Transitions:  
From Strategy to Action**

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18:10 – 18:45

**Closing**

09:30 – 11:45

## High-Level Opening Session: Shaping Our Common Future

### Meet the moderators



**Shereen Zorba**  
Executive Secretary, UN  
Science-Policy-Business  
Forum on the Environment



**Axel Threlfall**  
Editor-at-Large,  
Reuters

### Sharing their vision will be:



**Elizabeth Mrema**  
Deputy Executive Director,  
UNEP



**Prof. Chris Reid**  
ARC Future Fellow, School  
of Natural Sciences,  
Macquarie University



**Hon. Toeolesulusulu Cedric  
Pose Salesa Shuster**  
Minister for Natural  
Resources and Environment,  
Samoa



**Astrid Schomaker**  
Director for Global  
Sustainable Development,  
European Commission



**Philip Lopokoiyit**  
CEO, ICEA LION Group



**Sanda Ojiambo**  
Executive Director, United  
Nations Global Compact

During the past century, we witnessed the sobering reality of a planet in peril, where the impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, ecosystem deterioration, and pollution adversely and mercilessly impacted – and continue to impact -- our livelihoods, health, economies, security, and our very survival. UNEP’s report “Making Peace with Nature” clearly states that the world is not on track to meet any of the environmental goals, a trajectory that we seek to challenge and overturn.

What are the building blocks to doing better? To put the world on track to meet environmental goals? And if there is one thing that we need to either change or embrace to reach this goal, what would that be?

The Opening Session of the Science-Policy-Business Forum, entitled ‘Shaping our Common Future’, will lay the foundations for the day’s deliberations. Leaders and visionaries, representing diverse sectors, will attempt to answer these questions through their distinct vantage point.

The format is built around mini TED-like talks of 5 minutes each that are compact, focused, and impactful.

According to Merriam-Webster, vision is defined as, “the act of power of imagination.” When we apply vision to the future, we create not only aspiration but a determination to guide and direct our actions.

## High-Level Opening Session: Shaping Our Common Future

Sharing their vision will be:



**H.E. Tomáš Taraba**  
Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister of Environment,  
Slovakia



**Sonja Leighton Kone**  
Deputy Executive Director,  
UNOPS



**Juergen Weichenberger**  
Vice President AI New Value  
Stream, Schneider Electric



**Prof. Johan Rockström**  
Director, Potsdam Institute for  
Climate Impact Research



**Pavan Sukhdev**  
CEO, GIST Impact



**Tora Leifland**  
Head of Public Affairs,  
Volvo Group



**Zhu Xiaoyu**  
Board Member, SEE  
Foundation



**Tony Goldner**  
Executive Director, Taskforce  
on Nature-related Financial  
Disclosures (TNFD)



**Holger Harreis**  
Senior Partner, McKinsey &  
Company




**Olga Skaredina**  
Science-Policy Thematic  
Facilitator, Children and  
Youth Major Groups



**Philippe Zaouati**  
CEO, Mirova



**Janez Potočnik**  
Co-Chair, International  
Resource Panel



## Sector-Wide Transformations

UN-SPBF-style moderated, interactive debates. The sessions comprise deep-dive segments that speak to the wider theme, introducing perspectives and contributions from multiple sectors and stakeholders.

This work builds on the UN-SPBF regional and thematic processes and on its Expert Groups.



09:30 – 11:45

## The Imperative for Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Value Chains

Co-organized with the  
International Resources Panel (IRP)

### Meet the moderator



**Axel Threlfall**  
Editor-at-Large,  
Reuters

During the past century, we witnessed the sobering reality of a planet in peril, where the impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, ecosystem deterioration, and pollution adversely and mercilessly impacted – and continue to impact -- our livelihoods, health, economies, security, and our very survival. UNEP’s report “Making Peace with Nature” clearly states that the world is not on track to meet any of the environmental goals, a trajectory that we seek to challenge and overturn.

What are the building blocks to doing better? To put the world on track to meet environmental goals? And if there is one thing that we need to either change or embrace to reach this goal, what would that be?

### Leading the conversation:



**Hans Bruyninckx**  
Panel Member & Lead Author  
Global Resources Outlook  
2024, International Resource  
Panel (IRP)

The Opening Session of the Science-Policy-Business Forum, entitled ‘Shaping our Common Future’, will lay the foundations for the day’s deliberations. Leaders and visionaries, representing diverse sectors, will attempt to answer these questions through their distinct vantage point.

The format is built around mini TED-like talks of 5 minutes each that are compact, focused, and impactful.

According to Merriam-Webster, vision is defined as, “the act of power of imagination.” When we apply vision to the future, we create not only aspiration but a determination to guide and direct our actions.

12:00 – 13:00

## Responsible Mining in a Resource-Hungry World

Co-organized with the Consumption and Production Unit of UNEP's Industry and Economy Division

### Meet the moderator



Axel Threlfall  
Editor-at-Large,  
Reuters

### Joining the conversation will be:



Hon. Collins Nzovu  
Minister of Green Economy  
and Environment, Zambia



Boatlametse Modukanele  
Deputy Permanent  
Secretary, Botswana



Jan Morrill,  
Tailings Campaign Manager,  
EarthWorks



Tora Leifland  
Head of Public Affairs,  
Volvo Group



Steven Stone  
Deputy-Director, Industry &  
Economy Division, UNEP



Dr. Cathryn MacCallum  
Head of ESG Strategy,  
Akobo Minerals

As the global demand for minerals and metals surges, primarily driven by the low-carbon energy transition, infrastructure growth, and digitalization, the mining industry faces significant sustainability challenges.

Between 1970 and 2017, mineral and metal extraction tripled and is projected to double again by 2060 (International Resource Panel, 2019).

This debate will bring together industry leaders, government officials, and experts to discuss the future of responsible mining, focusing on sustainable practices and addressing environmental and social impacts.

The session aims to explore enabling conditions for responsible mining and the sustainable use of mineral resources. It will address the need for effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions, with a particular focus on minimizing negative impacts and fostering sustainable development, especially in resource-rich developing countries.

### Key Themes:

- **Global Demand and Public Policy:** Tackling the challenge of meeting the growing demand for minerals in a sustainable manner.
- **Circular Economy and Material Efficiency:** Exploring strategies to enhance the circularity of minerals and reduce future mining.
- **Financial Sector's Influence:** Understanding the role of finance in promoting environmentally and socially responsible mining practices.
- **Governance and Accountability:** Improving the fragmented governance landscape in the mining sector.
- **Role of Multilateralism:** Examining how multilateral cooperation can support sustainable mining practices.
- **Environmental and Social Concerns:** There is increasing scrutiny over the environmental and social impacts of mining. Companies like Vale and Freeport McMoRan have faced criticism for their environmental impacts and human rights violations.

## Joining the conversation will be:



**Prem Singh Tharu**  
Regional Programme Officer,  
Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact  
(AIPP)



**Adam Matthews**  
Chief Responsible Investment  
Officer, The Church of  
England Pensions Board  
(representing Principles for  
Responsible Investment)



**Dr. Inga Wagner**  
Head of Unit, European  
and international Circular  
Economy and Raw Materials  
Policy, Federal Ministry for  
the Environment, Germany



**Tommi Kauppila**  
Research Professor Circular  
Economy Solutions,  
Geological Survey of  
Finland (GTK)



**Dr. Vergütz Leonardus**  
Chief Innovation Officer,  
OCP Group



**Rohitesh Dhawan**  
CEO, International Council on  
Mining and Metals (ICMM) -  
(Remote)



**Steven Kukoda**  
Executive Director,  
International Copper  
Association

12:00 – 13:00

## The Urban Environment: The Near-Zero Buildings of the Future

Co-organized in cooperation with UNEP's Cities Unit and Cool Coalition, Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (Global ABC) and Generation Restoration

### Meet the moderator



Joe Ageyo  
Editor in Chief,  
Nation Media Group

Sustainable buildings offer a solution to reduce urban pollution levels and combat climate change.

This session delves into how near-zero emission and resilient buildings can play a pivotal role in mitigating these challenges. It will bring together top experts from UN Habitat, ICLEI, UNEP, the World Bank, OECD and the private sector to discuss the intersection of sustainable architecture, urban planning, and environmental health.

The session comes a week ahead of the Buildings and Climate Global Forum, convened in Paris by the governments of France and Morocco, in partnership with UNEP and the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction.

### Key Themes:

- **Global and Regional Perspectives:** Analysing the importance of sustainable buildings in different regions, considering environmental and health impacts.
- **Economic and Policy Frameworks:** Evaluating economic models and policy initiatives that support the adoption of sustainable building practices.
- **Innovation and Technology in Sustainable Architecture:** Exploring advancements in building materials, energy efficiency, and sustainable design.
- **Community Engagement and Equity in Urban Planning:** Understanding the role of community participation and equity in shaping resilient urban landscapes.

### Joining the conversation will be:



**H.E. Hassaan Mohamed**  
Deputy Minister, Ministry of  
Environment, Climate Change  
and Technology Maldives



**John Thompson**  
Deputy Assistant Secretary,  
Environment, Bureau of  
Oceans and International  
Environmental and Scientific  
Affairs, US



**Kerstin Stendahl**  
Special Envoy for Climate  
and Environment, Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs, Finland



**Juergen Weichenberger**  
Vice President AI New Value  
Stream, Schneider Electric

## The Urban Environment: The Near-Zero Buildings of the Future

Joining the conversation will be:



**Nasra Nanda**  
CEO & ESG Lead, Kenya  
Green Building Society



**Yubo Zhai**  
General Manager, NaaS  
Carbon Neutrality



**Kweku Lisk**  
Deputy Mayor, City of  
Freetown, Sierra Leone



**Dechen Tsering**  
Director, Climate Change  
Division, UNEP



**Dennis Papa**  
**Odenyi Quansah**  
Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria  
Lead, Climate Business  
Department, International  
Finance Corporation (IFC)



**VIDEO MESSAGE**  
**H.E. Christophe Béchu**  
Minister of Ecological  
Transition and Territorial  
Cohesion, France

12:00 – 13:00

## Thread Lightly: Unravelling the Fabric of Sustainable Fashion

Co-organized with UNEP's Textile Team - Industry and Economy Division.

### Meet the moderator



Ms. Erica Key  
CEO, Future Earth  
US Global Hub

The fashion industry is a significant contributor to ecological degradation, responsible for 2-8% of global carbon emissions. The prevalent linear economic model in this sector, emphasizing a take-make-waste approach, has led to fashion being largely disposable.

UNEP's 2023 report, "Sustainability and Circularity in the Textile Value Chain: A Global Roadmap," stresses the importance of shifting consumption patterns, improving practices, and investing in infrastructure to achieve a circular textile sector. The Sustainable Fashion Communication Playbook, co-published by UNEP and UNFCCC, provides guidance on aligning consumer-facing communication with sustainability targets.

The value chain approach in sustainable fashion focuses on each step of the creation of value of a product, from raw materials to final products, and consumer and post-consumer use.

This approach ensures that environmental and social impacts are considered and minimized throughout the entire lifecycle of the product. Key aspects include circular product design, circular business model, sourcing sustainable materials, ensuring fair labor practices, minimizing waste during production, and promoting recycling and upcycling of products.

This session will review the integration of sustainability in the textiles industry, gaining insights into a multifaceted challenge that requires the involvement of diverse stakeholders, including SMEs, large corporations, and financial institutions.

The goal is to create a system that supports ecological integrity and social justice, transitioning from a linear model of production and consumption to a more circular and responsible one.

## Thread Lightly: Unravelling the Fabric of Sustainable Fashion

Joining the conversation will be:



**H.E. Johanna  
Lissinger Peitz**  
Ambassador, Ministry of  
Climate and Enterprise,  
Sweden



**H.E. Mr. Veluppillai  
Kananathan**  
High Commissioner and  
Permanent Representative,  
Sri Lanka



**Alexandre Capelli**  
Deputy Environment Director,  
LVMH Group



**Branson Skinner**  
Founder, The Or Foundation



**Ria Ana Sejpal**  
Founder, Lilabare



**Omoyemi Akerele**  
Founder, Lagos Fashion  
Week / Style House Files



**Abdullah Muhammed**  
Business Development  
Manager, Wama  
International Group

13:00 – 14:30  
Lunch





A close-up photograph of a person's face, focusing on the eyes and forehead. The image is overlaid with a green and yellow gradient, which is darker on the left and lighter on the right. The person's eyes are looking slightly to the right.

## Afternoon Session: New Economy

Harnessing Economic and  
Financial Tools to Tackle  
the 3 Planetary Crisis

14:00 – 14:30

## Opening Plenary

A moderated debate-style interactive session made up of diverse deep-dive segments that feed into the wider discussion:



**H.E. Mrs. Rachel Ruto**  
the First Lady of the Republic  
of Kenya



**Inger Andersen**  
Executive Director, UNEP



**H.E. Leila Benali**  
President of UNEA-  
6 & Minister of Energy  
Transition and Sustainable  
Development, Kingdom of  
Morocco

14:45 – 15:45

## High Level Panel: Tracking Financial Flows to Nature-based Solutions

Co-organized in cooperation with  
UNEP's Climate Finance Unit, UNEP's Finance  
Initiative, and UN-SPBF partners

### Meet the moderator



**Axel Threlfall**  
Editor-at-Large,  
Reuters

Nature-based Solutions provide critical investment opportunities as they are cost-effective and provide multiple benefits. The opening segment of this session will explore the scale of nature-negative finance flows from both public and private sector sources globally, comparing them to the finance needed to maximize the potential of Nature-based Solutions to help tackle climate, biodiversity, and degradation challenges. This segment builds on UNEP's newly launched report 'State of Finance for Nature 2023' which tracks finance flows to Nature-based Solutions.

### Joining the conversation will be:



**H.E. Maria Susana Muhamad**  
Minister of Environment and  
Sustainable Development,  
Colombia



**H.E. Dr. Claudine Uwera**  
Minister of State for the  
Environment, Rwanda



**H.E. Dr Iziaq Adekunle Salako**  
Minister of State for  
Environment, Nigeria



**Ms. Laksmi Dhewanthi**  
Deputy Minister / Director  
General of Climate Change,  
Ministry of Environment and  
Forestry of the Republic of  
Indonesia



**Tony Goldner**  
Executive Director, Taskforce  
on Nature-related Financial  
Disclosures (TNFD)



**Eva Mayerhofer**  
Head of Environmental  
Policy and Lead Biodiversity  
Specialist, European  
Investment Bank (EIB)



**Florent Kaiser, CEO**  
Global Forest Generation



**Reshma Shah**  
Group Director, Sustainability,  
Equity Group Holdings



**Pavan Sukhdev**  
CEO, GIST Impact

15:50 – 16:50

## The Argument for High-Integrity Carbon Markets

### Meet the moderators



**Joe Ageyo**  
Editor in Chief,  
Nation Media Group



**Shereen Zorba**  
Executive Secretary, UN  
Science-Policy-Business  
Forum on the Environment

The integrity and effectiveness of carbon markets are vital for meeting the goals of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. One of the key challenges is ensuring they benefit developing countries, which often face the dilemma of balancing fossil fuel exploration for economic development with environmental sustainability.

Addressing equality and equity, especially in developing countries, is central to the effectiveness of carbon markets. This includes ensuring that carbon markets are designed to support sustainable development in these regions, rather than exploiting them.

UNEP's Copenhagen Climate Centre has explored methodologies to promote transformational change through carbon markets. CTCN concluded that 'Digitalization', 'Private sector and Governments', 'Carbon pricing', and 'Dynamic baselines' are key actions toward transformational change.

Meanwhile, the World Bank has just launched ambitious plans for the growth of high-integrity global carbon markets, with 15 countries set to earn income from the sale of carbon credits generated from preserving their forests. By next year, these countries will have produced over 24 million credits, and as many as 126 million by 2028. These credits could earn up to \$2.5 billion in the right market conditions.

The private sector, particularly corporates, plays a role in driving demand for carbon credits, though this has been met with challenges like accusations of greenwashing and the need for clearer guidelines on credit quality and claims. Financial institutions are pivotal in providing the necessary capital and investment products to support these markets.

The voluntary carbon market is at an inflection point, with growth slowing due to uncertainties about credit quality, eligibility, and public scrutiny, including accusations of greenwashing. This highlights the need for clearer global standards and consistent guidelines to bolster market confidence and integrity .

# The Argument for High-Integrity Carbon Markets

Joining the conversation will be:



**Augustine Kenduiwo**  
Deputy Director Climate  
Change, Ministry of the  
Environment, Kenya



**Prof. Zhang Li**  
Director, Green Inclusive  
Carbon Neutrality Center



**Sunny Trinh**  
Co-Founder & Chief Executive  
Officer, DevvStream



**Philippe Zaouati**  
CEO, Mirova



**Gabriel Labbate**  
Co-Chair of the Expert Panel,  
Integrity Council for the  
Voluntary Carbon Market



**Tracy Lane**  
Associate Director, KPMG  
East Africa



**Jenni Pitko**  
Member of Parliament,  
Finland

## Frontiers Session

# Towards Integrated Early Warning Systems for the Planet

17:05 – 18:05

## Forecasting the Future: Towards Integrated Early Warning Systems for the Planet

Co-organized in cooperation with the Early Warning and Data Analytics Branch of UNEP's Early Warning and Assessment Division

### Meet the moderator



Axel Threlfall  
Editor-at-Large,  
Reuters

Early Warning Systems (EWS) and Early Warning for Environment (EWE) are fundamental accelerators for the Achievement of Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development. EWE is a complementary dimension of the Early Warning for All Initiative, endorsed by the UN Secretary-General, which is a critical adaptive measure for climate change, saving millions of lives and protecting socio-economic losses, with more impact on developing nations and the most vulnerable. EWE is a co-creation process involving now twelve UN Agencies and four Multi-Lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), aiming at providing Early Warning services to 100 developing countries until 2030.

In this engaging and informative session, we delve into the critical topic of EWS and EWE and their role in addressing the three planetary crises identified by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP): climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. The debate aims to uncover the effectiveness, challenges, and prospects of EWS in mitigating the impacts of natural and man-made hazards.

The debate will be structured into several key segments, each focusing on a specific aspect of EWS. Expert panelists will offer insights, backed by data and case studies, followed by interactive discussions and audience Q&A session.

### Key Themes:

- Introduction to Early Warning Systems and Early Warning for Environment (EWE)
- Discussion on how the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Paris Climate Agreement incorporate EWS and EWE
- Space Technologies and Future Innovations
- Addressing the challenges in implementing and maintaining effective EWS and EWE, especially in developing countries.
- Debating the opportunities for international cooperation and technological innovation in enhancing EWS and EWE.

# Forecasting the Future: Towards Integrated Early Warning Systems for the Planet

Joining the conversation will be:



**H.E. Jeronimo Rosa  
Joao Chivavi**  
High Commissioner of the  
Republic of Mozambique



**Alexandre Caldas**  
Chief Early Warning and  
Data Analytics, UNEP



**Boatlametse Modukanele**  
Deputy Permanent  
Secretary, Botswana



**Katrin Saarsalu-Layachi**  
Ambassador for Climate and  
Energy Policy, Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs, Estonia



**Charles Mwangi**  
Director, Kenya Space Agency



**Dr. Charity Wayua**  
Director, IBM Research Africa



**Lorant Czaran**  
Head, UN SPIDER



**Jack Ngare**  
Technical Director in Office of  
the CTO, Google Cloud



**Tomaž Rodič**  
Director, Slovenian Center of  
Excellence for Space, Science  
and Technology



**Christian Feichtinger**  
Executive Director,  
International Astronautical  
Federation



**Giuseppe Ottavianelli**  
Head of the Applications  
Section, in the Climate  
Action, Sustainability &  
Science Department  
European Space Agency



**Stefania Ministrini**  
Head of Unit, International  
Affairs and Institutional  
Relations, Italian Institute for  
Environmental Protection and  
Research – ISPRA



17:05 – 18:05

## Building the Business Case for Soil Health

### Meet the moderator



**Prof. Mark Sutton**  
UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Co-chair of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (TFRN)

Healthy soils sit at the centre of the UN conventions on desertification, climate change, and biodiversity and are critical in addressing the triple planetary crisis. They are also key to delivering on many of the SDGs, with four highlighted. Increasingly extreme weather has led to more droughts as well as more flooding increasing the loss of topsoil through erosion. Rising sea levels can carry contaminants, like salt, into soil, as well as cause erosion. Modern agricultural practices are also degrading the planet's soil at an accelerated rate. We lose 24 billion tonnes of topsoil every year due to unsustainable land and soil management. The net result of this is more pesticides and nutrients like nitrogen being applied to counteract degradation not only causing more acidic soils but also an overload of pesticide residue and nutrients in the environment impacting human and planetary health.

Building an investment business case and accelerated multistakeholder action in support of strengthening healthy soil ecosystems is urgently needed. UNEP's Global Partnership on Nutrients Management effects a need for strategic, global advocacy to trigger government and stakeholder action in improved soil health and lower nitrogen and phosphorous use.

This event aims to highlight the importance of healthy soils as a key cross cutting agenda linked to a range of outcomes: biodiversity, circularity, land restoration, regenerative agriculture and nature positive agriculture and how adopting an integrated approach can harness synergies across a range of environmental and social agendas.

### The event will:

- Illustrate where real progress is already being made and can be scaled.
- Examine the role of public-private investment.
- Explore the business case for strengthened soil health action and scope for a joined-up high ambition action agenda.
- Demonstrate the importance of integrated soil data and financial incentives and de-risking as enablers to accelerated soil health action.
- Make the case for a UNEA resolution on soil health.
- Undertake how best to leverage the upcoming international calendar where the World Environment Day, the UN Convention on Biodiversity (UNCBD) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) will all strongly feature soils to accelerate action.

## Building the Business Case for Soil Health

Joining the conversation will be:



**KEYNOTE  
ADDRESS BY**  
**Sanda Ojiambo**  
Executive Director, United  
Nations Global Compact



**H.E. Dr. Selemani Saidi Jafo**  
Minister of State (Union and  
Environment), The United  
Republic of Tanzania



**H.E. Mr. Veluppillai  
Kananathan**  
High Commissioner of  
Sri Lanka in Kenya



**Arne Cartridge**  
Senior Advisor to the CEO,  
Yara



**Leigh Ann Winowiecki**  
Soil and Land Health Global  
Research Lead, CIFOR-ICRAF



**A.G Kawamura**  
Chairman of UNEP Farmers  
Major Group



**Karimi Thurania**  
Kenya Country Manager,  
OCP Group

17:05 – 18:05

## The Cost of Climate & Nature Positive Transitions: From Strategy to Action

Co-organized with I4CE –  
Institute for Climate Economics

### Meet the moderator



**Joe Ageyo**  
Editor in Chief,  
Nation Media Group

Nature-based Solutions provide critical investment opportunities as they are cost-effective and provide multiple benefits. The opening segment of this session will explore the scale of nature-negative finance flows from both public and private sector sources globally, comparing them to the finance needed to maximize the potential of Nature-based Solutions to help tackle climate, biodiversity, and degradation challenges. This segment builds on UNEP's newly launched report 'State of Finance for Nature 2023' which tracks finance flows to Nature-based Solutions.

### Joining the conversation will be:



**Hon. Dr Kwaku Afriyie**  
Minister of Environment,  
Science, Technology and  
Innovation, Ghana



**Marine Collignon**  
Deputy Assistant Director for  
Environment and Climate,  
Ministry for Europe and  
Foreign Affairs, France



**Pedro Ivo Ferraz da Silva**  
Secretary, Coordinator for  
scientific and technological  
affairs and bilateral relations,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Brazil



**Dr. Kyung Ah Koo**  
Senior Researcher  
Korea Environment Institute



**Louise Kessler**  
Economy Programme  
Director, I4CE



**Sylvia Mwangi**  
Executive and DRIVE Project  
Lead, Zep-Re Insurance  
Company



**Davinah Milengue**  
Principal Programme  
Coordinator Special Initiative,  
African Development Bank



**Mrinalini Rai**  
Director,  
Women4Biodiversity

