

Speaker Biographies

Day 2: Financial Mechanisms to Accelerate
Climate Action



Accelerating Climate Action

Unlocking Private Sector Finance for
Sustainable Landscape Management



Day 2: Financial Mechanisms to Accelerate Climate Action

Welcome and Workshop Overview



John Ehrmann, Meridian Institute

John Ehrmann is a Senior Partner and co-founder of Meridian Institute. He leads a wide range of projects, including those focusing on agriculture, land use, tropical forests, climate change, energy, and oceans. A highlight of his tenure at Meridian is leading the first Secretariat of the Tropical Forest Alliance, a global public-private partnership that works to reduce tropical deforestation associated with palm oil, pulp, soy, and beef. In addition to his international credentials, he also has extensive experience advancing U.S. environmental policy, including launching the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative (JOCI) and mediating the development of an agreement to reduce mercury emissions associated with the automobile industry.

Scaling Carbon Markets: Challenges and Opportunities for Building Supply



Simon Henry, International Emissions Trading Association (IETA)

Simon Henry is the Director of Carbon Market Development at the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA). Simon leads IETA's work on the use of carbon markets to drive private finance into Natural Climate Solutions to help reduce emissions from deforestation and land use change. At IETA he has also held the roles of Director of EU Policy and Director of ICROA. Prior to joining IETA, Simon worked in energy and environmental consultancy. He was a Senior Consultant for five years at Pöyry Management Consulting (now AFRY), where his work focused on providing market analysis and commercial advice to a variety of European energy market stakeholders including utilities, investors and regulators. Prior to Pöyry, he worked for AEA Technology (now Ricardo Energy & Environment) for both private and public sector clients on a range of sustainability topics.



Justin Cochrane, CarbonStreaming

Justin Cochrane has led Carbon Streaming since its formation in 2020 with a mission of bringing stream financing, traditionally used in the mining and energy sectors, to fund high-impact carbon projects to advance the Global Goals. Justin recognizes the power and interconnectivity of financial and natural capital and seeks to align stakeholders in realizing this shared vision of protecting our environment for generations to come. Carbon Streaming went public on the NEO Exchange in July 2021 and raised over C\$180 million in less than 18 months to execute on its mission to financing a net-zero carbon future. Justin's ambition is to harness the power of the capital markets to fight climate change, to be part of the solution to create a truly inclusive carbon market that will allow participants of all kinds –from individuals to multinationals –to help deliver a net-zero carbon future.



Gautier Quéru, Mirova

Gautier Quéru is Managing Director Natural Capital and Director of the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund, an innovative \$200m fund co-promoted by Mirova, the responsible investment management company of Natixis, and the United Nations. The LDN Fund is dedicated to long term investments in sustainable land use projects and Nature-based Solutions.

Gautier joined Natixis group in 2004 when the European Carbon Fund (ECF), a €140 million fund dedicated to projects to reduce CO2 emissions under the Kyoto Protocol, was launched. Between 2013 and 2016, Gautier was Investment Director within the renewable energy fdivision of Mirova. Prior to joining Natixis group, Gautier started his career at the French Ministry of Economy.

Gautier is an engineer specialised in environment and energy from National Polytechnic Institute of Toulouse and is also a graduate of Sciences Po Paris.



Christina Magerkurth, Winrock International

Over twenty years' experience in the environmental field with eighteen years' experience specifically in the climate change and sustainability field developing, documenting, monitoring, validating and verifying carbon offset projects throughout the world under numerous methodologies and protocols, developing and validating carbon project and jurisdictional standards and sector specific methodologies, and supporting organizations in developing, verifying and reporting on corporate GHG inventories in addition to strategic sustainability planning support through benchmarking and goal setting.

Making Climate Finance Work for All



Leslie Durschinger, Terra Global

Leveraging 20 years of experience and a proven track record in the financial services industry, Ms. Durschinger founded Terra Global Capital in 2006 to promote results-based approaches to sustainable landscape management through climate smart agricultural and reducing deforestation. Ms Durschinger is recognized as a pioneer and innovator in alignment of development values and financially viable approaches to sustainable landscape management. Terra is now the leader in forest and agriculture program development, GHG analytics and business model development, providing technical expertise their global client base of governments, NGOs, and private companies in a collaborative and participatory manner. Under Durschinger's leadership Terra has structured risk mitigation instruments, trust funds and private equity funds to drive investment capital to sustainable agricultural production and forest management.

Prior to Terra, Ms. Durschinger held senior management positions in the areas of derivatives trading, investment management, algorithmic trading, risk management, and securities lending. She the Chair of the International Emission Trading Associations REDD+ working group, and is a member of the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) AFOLU Steering Committee, REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards Committee, VCS JNR Permanence Work Group, Coalition on Agricultural Greenhouse (C-AGG) Advisory Committee and W+ Standard Advisory Council. Ms. Durschinger and her family make small production olive oil on their farm in Mendocino County. Among her previous employers are JP Morgan, Merrill Lynch, Barclays Global Investors and Charles Schwab



Edward Rumsey, Permian Global

Edward is a Managing Partner of Permian Global, a business that is working for the protection and recovery of tropical forest by developing large-scale tropical forest protection and restoration projects that are funded through the generation and sale of verified emission reductions (VERs). Prior to Permian Global, Edward had a career in finance at ABN Amro and European Credit Management (ECM). Edward is also a Special Adviser to the World Bank Group, Carbon Markets and Innovation Team, and previously held an elected position on the Verra VCS Program Advisory Group.



Enric Arderiu, Mercuria

Enric is the Global Head of Environmental Products at Mercuria. He leads a global team covering a wide range of environmental products both in compliance and voluntary markets. The Environmental Products team manages carbon pricing for customers and helps develop carbon emission reduction and removal projects across the world. Prior to joining Mercuria, Enric was heading Low Carbon Trading in bp. Enric has been active in environmental markets since 2005 when he joined EcoSecurities. Enric holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics, a Master in Finance by London Business School and speaks four languages.

Innovative MRV Systems and Transaction Registries: Key Partners for Unlocking Finance and supporting sustainable production systems



Andrés Espejo, World Bank Group

Andrés Espejo, a forest and natural resource management engineer by training, is a Senior Carbon Finance Specialist working for the World Bank's Climate Change Group where he coordinates the implementation and operationalization of measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) processes, piloting of disruptive technology solutions for digital MRV and the creation of GHG standards under the WB's land use climate funds. Andres has strong expertise in carbon accounting in the AFOLU sector acting as lead under the Global Forest Observation Initiative (GFOI), reviewer under the UNFCCC and expert advising different independent standards. Prior to joining the Bank, he worked in both compliance and voluntary markets in the development and certification of offset projects mainly in the Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector.



Julian Gonzalo Jiménez, World Bank Group

Dr. Julian Gonzalo is a Senior Carbon Finance Specialist at the Climate Change Fund Management (SCCFM) Unit of the World Bank, supervising and providing technical support on Forest and AFOLU Monitoring/MRV systems to the FCPF (Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Carbon Fund/Readiness) and BioCF ISFL (Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes) countries in the Asia/Pacific Region, and leading the design and implementation of the WB ER Transaction Registry platform (CATS – Carbon Assets Tracking System).



Ana Sebastian, GMV

Dr. Ana Sebastian is a Business Development Manager at GMV involved in different aspects of the design and implementation of earth observation applications. She particularly focuses on the definition and implementation of satellite-based services supporting sustainable management of natural resources and green finance. Ana was part of the team that developed a prototype satellite based MRV system for cocoa in the Dominican Republic, and she has also worked on the monitoring from space of agricultural and livestock systems.

Dr Sebastian has more than 20 years of professional experience in the public and private sector, as well as in Academia. She holds forest engineering studies (BSc Environmental Engineering + MSc Forestry) from the Polytechnic University of Madrid, a PhD on remote sensing and forest fires (EC-Joint Research Centre-University of Valladolid), and a Master of Business Administration from the European School of Business.

Deep Dive I: Agroforestry as a Viable Climate Solution: The Case of Cocoa



Yohann Fare, Kinomé

Yohann Fare has been working on rural development for the past 15 years with particular interest in building multi-stakeholders partnerships on sustainable value-chain development and biodiversity conservation. He and his colleagues from Kinomé strongly believe and had experimented that reversing deforestation trends, changing the critical climate change trajectory and preventing the loss of biodiversity can only be the result of us human beings changing our own mindset. He regularly does consultations for the World Bank Group, GEF, UNDP on community based conservation, adaptation strategies and sustainability of tropical value chains like shea, cocoa, vanilla, moringa. Yohann and team have produced of the implementation guide for agroforestry projects for the WBG/FCPF to support public and private commitments on cocoa and vanilla sectors and on REDD+ strategies. The work on cocoa has driven to knowledge exchanges between four Latin America and two Western Africa countries in 2020/21.



Elikplim Komla Abotsi, Kinomé

Specialist in adaptation to climate change and especially in transitions of Human/Nature systems, Dr Abotsi passion is to develop and transmit tools and knowledges to reduce the vulnerability of humans and nature in the face of climate change. Convinced that the survival of humanity will go through a change in the relationship between humans, biodiversity and the climate, Dr ABOTSI was committed alongside local communities in Togo and Benin, NGOs, governments and GIZ (German cooperation) to erect the first cross-border biosphere reserve in the sub-region, recognized by UNESCO in 2017. He also intervened to develop, deploy and transmit tools for monitoring the management of the reserve and disseminate environmentally friendly agricultural practices. He has supported various institutions such as the World Bank Group, UNDP, UNESCO, Wetlands International, etc. as well as governments in several African countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Chad, Madagascar, DRC, Senegal, etc.) in integrating climate change issues in development strategies. One of most promising solutions is cocoa-based agroforestry to replace full-sun cocoa. He has supported the World Bank Group and the governments of producing countries in developing simulators to plan the rehabilitation of their sick and overaged orchards—RRI—(2019-2020), manage cocoa production and the green transition in the context of a better management of classified forests(2021-2022), and highlight the economic and ecological models associated with the best agroforestry practices in Africa and Latin America.



Cédric van Cutsem, Mondelēz International

As Senior Director Cocoa Life, Cédric leads and drives our Cocoa Life holistic program. Through Cocoa Life, we tackle the complex underlying and systemic challenges that cocoa farmers and their communities face –namely poverty -that threaten a sustainable supply. We enable and empower the farmers and communities we partner with to drive their own development and work in partnership across the public and private sectors to innovate and invest in solutions that improve the economics of cocoa farming and limit its impact on the environment. Cedric has 15+ years of professional experience working in cocoa and sustainability. Prior to joining Mondelēz International, Cedric was Director for Sustainable Cocoa at Ecom. He also gained significant experience as trader in Switzerland and earlier as Managing Director in Nigeria setting up and managing Ecom's operations for close to 4 years. Cedric has lived in Nigeria, Switzerland, Côte d'Ivoire and is now located in Belgium. He holds a master degree in Business from the University of ICHEC in Brussels.



Maria Soledad Requejo, International Finance Corporation

Soledad Requejo is an Operations officer at the International Finance Corporation, the private sector arm of the World Bank Group. Soledad leads IFC's advisory work in the cocoa sector in Latin America and is also part of the team delivering advisory and upstream work across other agribusiness sectors. She is passionate about working with clients in innovative projects that bring financial, social and economic sustainability. She graduated as an economist from the University of Maryland and holds an MBA from the Johns Hopkins University. Since joining IFC in 2004, Sol became highly experienced in the design and implementation of advisory projects in the manufacturing and agribusiness sectors.



Oriane Plédran, Andean Cacao

Oriane Plédran is currently the Head of Sustainability of Andean Cacao. She is leading the sustainability strategy of the company with the objective to provide inclusive, regenerative and carbon neutral cocoa supply. She has a 10 yrs' experience in contract farming, rural development, agroforestry and public-private partnerships. She holds a PhD in Economics on agroforestry partnerships in cocoa and coffee value chains and a master's degree in Sustainable Development in Developing Countries from CERDI and a master's degree in International Relations from Sciences Po Lyon.



Oliver Hanke, 12Tree GmbH

Oliver Hanke is the Chief Sustainability Officer and Chief Marketing Officer at 12Tree GmbH, a pioneer in deeply sustainable nature-based investments –with a goal to make direct carbon sequestration, holistic social impact and biodiversity investible for institutional and professional investors. The company manages today 20'000 hectares of agroforests with a key expertise in cacao. Born and raised in Germany, Oliver holds a MA in Economics and can look back at a 15 year career in UK Corporate Real Estate and Swiss Wealth Management before dedicating himself to the field of sustainable agroforestry investments. In the last 10 years he held roles as CEO of the Global Sustainable Agroforestry Fund and CIO at Nature bank Asset Management before becoming a founding member of 12Tree in 2016.