

## **Climate Change and Pandemics: Two Crises, One Nature-Based Solution**

**9<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

### **EVENT PARTICIPANT BIOS**

#### **Co-Hosts – Opening session**



**Dr. Nigel Sizer, Executive Director, Preventing Pandemics at the Source** Dr. Nigel Sizer serves as the executive director of the Preventing Pandemics at the Source initiative with Dalberg Catalyst. He previously served for two years as president of Rainforest Alliance. He was global director of the Forests Program at the World Resources Institute, where he launched path-breaking partnerships, including the award-winning Global Forest Watch and the Global Restoration Initiative. He also served as vice president for Asia-Pacific with Rare, and lead advisor on climate change and energy issues in Asia to former US President Bill Clinton and the Clinton Global Initiative. Sizer has also worked with UNEP in Nairobi and established The Nature Conservancy's Asia-Pacific Forest Program. He has received numerous awards including the Henry Arnold Conservation Fellowship from the Mulago Foundation and the United Nations Secretary General's Big Data Challenge prize.



**H.E. Per Olsson Fridh, Minister for International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden** H.E. Per Olsson Fridh, was appointed Minister for International Development Cooperation in February 2021. Prior to that, he served as State Secretary for International Development Cooperation and between 2014-2018 served as State Secretary for Culture and Democracy. H.E. Olsson Fridh previously held the positions of Chair of the Swedish Green Party in Stockholm as well as Secretary-General for the Swedish Centre for International Youth Exchange and Sweden's National Council of Youth Organisations.



**H.E. Lee White, Minister of Water, Forests, the Sea, and Environment, Gabon** Professor Lee White has been the Gabonese Minister of Water, Forests, Sea and Environment since June 2019, in charge of the Climate Plan, Sustainable Development Goals and of the Land Use Plan. He has expertise in areas related to climate change, the preservation and management of natural resources, protected areas, and ecotourism. Growing up in Uganda and then working in Sierra Leone and Nigeria, he arrived in Gabon in 1989 to undertake a doctorate in zoology on the impact of logging on flora and fauna. He then joined the American NGO Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) to

create a research and conservation program in Gabon and in the forest zone of Central Africa. In 2008, he left WCS, acquired Gabonese nationality, and joined the Ministry of the Environment as Chief Scientist in the Gabonese delegation for negotiations with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) before being appointed, in 2009, Executive Secretary of the National Agency for National Parks.

Professor White is an Honorary Professor at the University of Stirling. In 2010, he was awarded a CBE for his services to conservation in Central Africa. His career in the West and Central African forest belt spans 35 years.



**Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility** Carlos Manuel Rodriguez is the CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility and an expert on environmental policy. Prior to this, during his three terms serving as the Costa Rican Minister of Environment and Energy, Rodriguez played an important role in the country's achievements in doubling the size of its forests and switching over to a 100 percent renewable energy sector. Further, Rodriguez has 12 years' experience working at Conservation International and has pioneered initiatives to develop Payment for Ecosystem Services and strategies for ocean conservation and de-carbonization.

## Speakers



**Juma Xipaia (zj-uma zji-pie-ya), Indigenous Leader, Xipaya People** Juma Xipaia is an Indigenous leader belonging to the Xipaya people, a mother, wife, activist, and medical student at the Federal University of Pará (UFPA). At the age of 24, Juma was the first woman to become a Chief in the Middle Xingu, leading the Xipaya Tukamã village. She defends gender equality, the autonomy of Indigenous people and plays an important role against the co-optation and corruption of Indigenous people and leaders. Juma has dedicated more than 14 years to the Indigenous Movement.



**Nonette Royo, Executive Director, Tenure Facility** Nonette is a lawyer, and a specialist in Indigenous Peoples, land rights, environment, and natural resources management. Most of her work has been in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, especially in Indonesia, Philippines, Mekong region and Melanesia. Her experience spans for over 30 years and includes nearly a decade advising the Global Greengrants Fund, several USAID and DFID-UK Natural Resource and Community Forestry

Portfolios and the Norwegian Climate and Forest funds, dedicated to Indigenous Peoples and local communities in forest and climate programmes. She co-founded and led the Samdhana Institute and set up several non-governmental organisations focusing on advancing Indigenous Peoples and women's legal rights. Over the years, she has consistently helped design and implement funding portfolios for local communities and Indigenous Peoples in the global south. Nonette is the executive director of the Tenure Facility, and her work today expands to Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas. When not working, Nonette enjoys spending time in nature and with her family.



**Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, President, Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad (AFPAT)** Hindou is an environmental activist and member of Chad's pastoralist Mbororo people. She began advocating for Indigenous rights and environmental protection at age 16, founding the Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad (AFPAT). She is a member of the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee and serves as co-chair of the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform of the UNFCCC.



**Monica P. Medina, Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State** Monica P. Medina was confirmed as Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs on September 28, 2021. Previously, Assistant Secretary Medina was an adjunct professor at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. She was also a Senior Associate on the Stephenson Ocean Security Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and Co-Founder and Publisher of Our Daily Planet, an e-newsletter on conservation and the environment.

She has also served as General Counsel of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense. She attended college on an Army R.O.T.C. scholarship and began her career on active duty in the Army General Counsel's Office. She received the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service and the Army Meritorious Service Medal. She has a Bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and a J.D. from Columbia Law School.

## Co-Panelists



**Carter Roberts, president and CEO of World Wildlife Fund in the United States** Roberts leads WWF's efforts to save the world's great ecosystems and address climate change by linking science, field and policy programs with an ambitious initiative to work with markets and businesses to lighten their impact on the planet. He has worked with communities and heads of state in North America, Africa, Latin America and Asia; and has built partnerships with some of the world's largest corporations, including Walmart, Cargill and Mars to set new industry standards for resource efficiency. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and served on the International Finance Corporation's Advisory Panel on Sustainability and Business.



**Dr. Ari Bernstein, Interim Director of The Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health** Dr. Aaron Bernstein is the 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. Ari focuses on the health impacts of the climate crisis on children's health and advancing solutions to address its causes to improve the health of children around the world. He leads Climate MD, a program to encourage physicians to transform climate change from an issue dominated by politics and concerns about the future or faraway places, to one that matters to every person's health here and now. Ari holds a BS in Human Biology from Stanford University, an MD from the University of Chicago, and an MPH from Harvard University.



**[Tentative] Cristina Romanelli, Interagency Liaison, CBD-WHO Joint Work Programme on Biodiversity & Human Health, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity** Cristina is the interagency liaison for the UN Biodiversity Convention under its joint work programme on biodiversity and health with the World Health Organization. She has over 17 years of experience as a sustainability professional working in policy evaluation and development, multi-stakeholder engagement, and interdisciplinary research with the United Nations, specialized agencies, the public and private sectors, and non-governmental organizations. Prior to joining the CBD in 2010, she worked as a senior sustainability consultant focusing on sustainable development policy, energy regulation, and climate change, contributing to over 35 energy regulatory proceedings across North America. She holds a Master of Science and a Master of Arts.