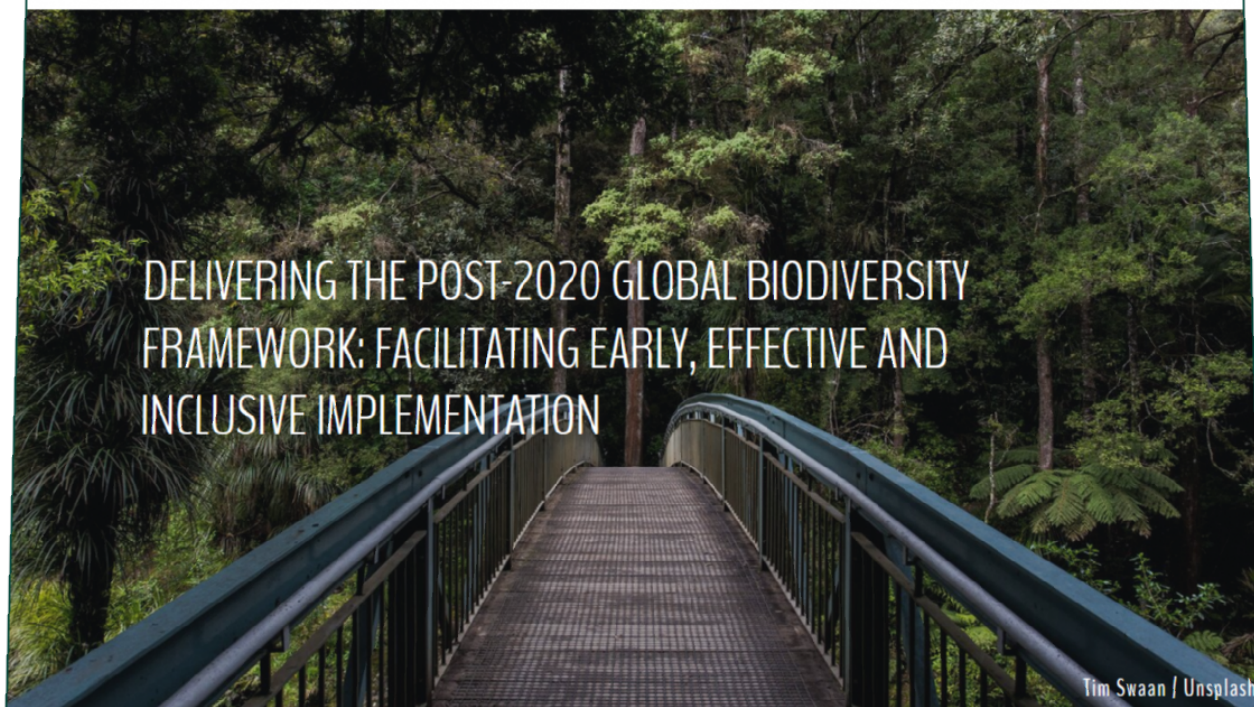




Convention on  
Biological Diversity



## DELIVERING THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK: FACILITATING EARLY, EFFECTIVE AND INCLUSIVE IMPLEMENTATION

Tim Swaan / Unsplash

CBD Online Flagship Side Event at the Resumed Fifth Session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

- Date and Time: Tuesday, 1 March 2022, 18:15 – 19:45 (EAT)
- Duration: 90 minutes
- Venue: Online
- Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/493345790532046351>

# SPEAKER PROFILES

(in alphabetical order)

**Mr. Neville Ash**

Director of the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP WCMC)

**Ms. Vicki Benjamin**

President & Co-founder, Karner Blue Capital

**Ms. Severn Cullis-Suzuki**

Executive Director, David Suzuki Foundation

**H.E. The Rt Hon. Lord Zac Goldsmith**

Minister for Pacific and the Environment of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

**Mr. Basile van Havre**

Co-Chair of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

**Ms. Bettina Hoffmann**

Parliamentary State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection of Germany

**Ms. Abigail Kitma**

Indigenous Peoples' Rights Programme Coordinator of Tebtebba Foundation

**Mr. Kevin Lunzalu**

Founder and Coordinator of Global Youth Biodiversity Network Kenya

**Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema**

Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity

**Mr. Francis Ogwal**

Co-Chair of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

**Ms. Femi Oke**

(Event moderator), Journalist & Co-Founder of Moderate The Panel

**H.E. Mr. Adrián Peña**

Minister of Environment of Uruguay

**Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez**

CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)

**H. E. Mr. Huang Runqiu**

Minister of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China, CBD COP 15 Presidency

**Mr. Sudhanshu Sarronwala**

Chief Impact Officer of Infarm

**Mr. Kaddu Sebunya**

CEO of the African Wildlife Foundation

## Mr. Neville Ash

*Director of the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP WCMC)*



Neville is the Director of the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre, where he represents UNEP in the collaboration between UN Environment and WCMC at the Centre, and represents UN Environment in the United Kingdom. He provides overall leadership to the Centre and the Senior Management Team, including ensuring a clear strategy is in place towards the achievement of the Centre's vision and mission.

Neville has been with UN Environment since 2010, most recently as Deputy Director of UN Environment's Division of Environmental Policy Implementation. Neville led UN Environment's work on biodiversity, including the process to establish the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and UN Environment's work to address illegal wildlife trade. Previously he was Head of IUCN's Ecosystem Management Programme. Neville was also Head of Ecosystem Assessment at UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre, overseeing a range of international monitoring and assessment initiatives. He has spent time researching and managing conservation initiatives in Asia and Africa, and has considerable experience working with a range of international policy processes.

## Ms. Vicki Benjamin

*President & Co-founder, Karner Blue Capital*

Vicki Benjamin is Co-Founder and CEO of Karner Blue Capital, a women-owned and led, socially responsible investment firm building innovative investment strategies dedicated to protecting the planet's biodiversity, fostering environmental stewardship, and conserving nature around the globe. As CEO, she helps investors drive portfolios of change, providing timely thought leadership, utilizing Karner Blue's research platform to identify companies that are leading the transformation towards sustainability and offering investors an opportunity to invest in the companies of tomorrow—today.

With over 25 years of experience in the financial sector, Vicki has long worked at the intersection of finance and environmental sustainability, growing her passion for using finance to solve some of the world's most pressing environmental and social issues.



Prior to co-founding Karner Blue Capital in 2017, she led Calvert Investments, one of the largest responsible investment companies in the United States, first as chief operating officer, then as President and acted as a Senior Partner at KPMG International, one of the world's Big Four accounting organizations. Vicki received her bachelor's degree from the University of New Hampshire and an M.B.A from Bentley University McCallum Graduate School of Business.

## Ms. Severn Cullis-Suzuki

*Executive Director, David Suzuki Foundation*



At just 12 years old, Severn Cullis-Suzuki gained international attention when she delivered her famous 6-minute speech at the UN Earth Summit in Rio, pleading for the delegates to preserve the planet. Since then, Severn has continued advocating for intergenerational justice — justice for future generations — speaking to audiences around the world. Severn returned to several Earth Summits since then, and was appointed to the Earth Charter Commission, which produced a framework for human conduct with respect to the Earth.

In 2000, Severn spearheaded Powershift 2000, a cycling trip across Canada for clean air and climate change awareness.

She has published several books including *The Day You Will Change the World*, and is one of the authors and editors of the book, *Notes from Canada's Young Activists*.

Severn has a Bachelor of Science from Yale University, and a Master's of Science from the University of Victoria. She is currently a Vanier and Public Scholar pursuing her doctorate in endangered language revitalization. In September 2021, Severn was named Executive Director of the David Suzuki Foundation, where she and her team work to protect nature's diversity and the well-being of all life, now and for the future.

## H.E. The Rt Hon. Lord Zac Goldsmith

*Minister for Pacific and the Environment of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*

The Rt Hon Lord (Zac) Goldsmith of Richmond Park is the Minister for Pacific and the Environment at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

He is the Minister leading the UK's COP26 nature campaign, and international nature strategy, and is a keen advocate for environmental issues and sustainability around the world.

Before becoming involved in politics Zac directed and edited the *Ecologist Magazine* for a decade, and received Mikhail Gorbachev's Global Green Award for 'International Environmental Leadership'.





## **Mr. Basile van Havre**

*Co-Chair of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*



Mr. Basile van Havre (Canada) is a Co-Chair for the Convention on Biological Diversity's Open-Ended Working Group for a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. He has over 27 years of experience working in Canada's Environment Department.

In addition to being Canada's CBD focal point, his roles included Director General of Biodiversity and Partnerships and Director of Population Conservation and Management at the Canadian Wildlife Service, Chair of the CITES Elephant working group and CBD Discussions on Indigenous Knowledge and Repatriation, Co-Chair of the International Joint Commission on Great Lakes Water Quality Board, Director at the Meteorological Service of Canada.

## **Ms. Bettina Hoffmann**

*Parliamentary State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection of Germany*

Dr. Bettina Hoffmann MdB was appointed Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection in 2021 and is a member of Parliament in the German Green Party (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen) parliamentary group.

Bettina Hoffmann completed her studies in biology at Philipps University in Marburg with a doctorate. Until 2017, she was managing director of an agency for planning and communication in the field of environment, tourism and regional development. Since 2017, she has been a member of Parliament. Until 2021, she was spokesperson for environmental policy and environmental health, a member of the Environment Committee and chairwoman of the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Sustainable Development.



## **Ms. Abigail Kitma**

*Indigenous Peoples' Rights Programme Coordinator of Tebtebba Foundation*



Abigail Kitma is an indigenous Ibaloy from Baguio City, Philippines. She is currently a staff of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Program of Tebtebba and is engaging in the UN CBD through the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB).

## **Mr. Kevin Lunzalu**

*Founder and Coordinator of Global Youth Biodiversity Network Kenya*

Kevin Lunzalu is very passionate about transformative biodiversity governance, fostering youth-led practical solutions to pressing conservation challenges, and intergenerational equity. He is currently a graduate student at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where he is a Coastal Science & Policy Fellow.

He is the co-founder and national coordinator of the [Kenyan Youth Biodiversity Network](#), one of Kenya's largest youth-led conservation organizations by membership, building the capacity of young people to address biodiversity loss through policy advocacy, ecosystem restoration, marine action, and awareness creation.



Kevin has received several recognitions for his work on biodiversity conservation, including being an [Aspen New Voices Fellow 2022](#), listed among [Top 100 Young Conservation Leaders in Africa 2021](#), won [Youth of the Year 2021 Award of the Youth Agenda 254](#), [World Bank's #Blog4Dev 2021 Winner](#), and an alumnus of the [Young African Leaders Initiative \(YALI\)](#). He was an invited delegate and [speaker](#) at [IUCN World Conservation Congress 2021](#) to promote stronger youth voices in biodiversity governance.

## **Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema**

*Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity*



Elizabeth Maruma Mrema is the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. She has worked with the UN Environment Programme for over two decades and was the Director of the Law Division at UNEP. Prior to joining the Law Division, she was Deputy Director of the Ecosystems Division, in charge of coordination, operations and programme delivery. Prior to these duties, she also served as Executive Secretary of the UNEP/Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. Her work at UNEP has focused on development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, including multilateral environmental agreements at national, regional and international levels.

Before joining UNEP, Elizabeth worked with Tanzania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and left as a Counsellor/Senior Legal Counsel.

During her time with the Ministry, she was also a lecturer in Public International Law and Conference Diplomacy at Tanzania's Centre for Foreign Relations and Diplomacy. She had also served as a pro bono visiting lecturer at the University of Nairobi Law School and in the past at the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), Rome, Italy.

## **Mr. Francis Ogwal**

*Co-Chair of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*

Mr. Francis Ogwal (Uganda) is a Co-Chair for the Convention on Biological Diversity's Open-Ended Working Group for a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

He has been working with the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) since 2005. He has also been active in the CBD for over 15 years. Since 2005, he has taken on the roles as Uganda's CBD Focal Point, Vice-President of the COP Bureau, Co-Chair for Resource Mobilization and Financial Mechanisms working group, the first Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI).



He has also received a Presidential award in recognition of his contribution in advancing biodiversity.

## **Ms. Femi Oke**

*Moderator, Journalist & Co-Founder of Moderate The Panel*



Femi Oke is an award-winning international journalist, broadcaster, professional moderator and the co-founder of the diverse moderators bureau "Moderate The Panel".

Femi's reporting has been recognized by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Communications Agency and InterAction. Since the 1980s she has worked for BBC television and radio, Sky TV, all the U.K. terrestrial television networks, CNN, and U.S. public radio

As a professional moderator Femi has presided over world class events for international institutions including the European Union, United Nations and African Development Bank.

## **H.E. Mr. Adrián Peña**

*Minister of Environment of Uruguay*

H.E. Mr. Peña assumed office as Minister of Environment in August 2020 under the presidency of Dr. Luis Lacalle. He previously served as General Secretary of the Colorado Party and was elected Senator of this party in 2020. In 2015, Mr. Peña assumed office as National Representative for Canelones in the National Parliament for the 2015-2020 Legislature. He holds a Degree in Business Management.





## **Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez**

*CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)*



Carlos Manuel Rodriguez has been CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility since June 2020. A Costa Rican national, he was a pioneer in the development of Payment for Ecosystem Services and strategies for forest restoration, ocean conservation, and decarbonization. During his three terms as Environment and Energy Minister, Costa Rica doubled the size of its forests, made its electric sector fully renewable, and consolidated a national park system that has made Costa Rica a prime ecotourism destination. After his second tenure as minister, he was Vice President for Global Policy at Conservation International for 12 years.

## **H. E. Mr. Huang Runqiu**

*Minister of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China, CBD COP 15 Presidency*

He served as the vice minister of the Ministry of Environmental Protection (superseded by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment in 2018) from March 2016 to April 2020. Prior to joining the MEE, He was the vice president of Chengdu University of Technology and the vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Sichuan Provincial People's Congress. He graduated from the Hydrology Department of the Chengdu College of Geology (currently known as the Chengdu University of Technology) with a major in Engineering Geology. He has a postgraduate education, holds a PhD degree in engineering and the professional title of professor.



## Mr. Sudhanshu Sarronwala

*Chief Impact Officer of Infarm*



Sudhanshu Sarronwala (Suds) is Chief Impact Officer at Infarm, the world's fastest-growing urban farming network, harvesting and distributing more than 1,000,000 plants each month across its network in 10 countries.

A long time advocate for environmental conservation, Suds leads Infarm's Impact Division, created within the company to drive understanding of the tremendous health, sustainability and environmental benefits of Infarm's urban farms and the industry at large. His team works with governments, NGOs, companies and other key partners to multiply Infarm's impact and create positive change in our society.

Suds has spent more than 30 years in management, communications and as an internet entrepreneur. Prior to Infarm, Suds was Executive Director of Marketing and Communications with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), where he directed brand, media, digital communications and partnership efforts in service of the organization's mission to help conserve natural resources; transform markets, societies and policies toward sustainability; and protect and restore species and their habitats. He was also responsible for Earth Hour Global and WWF-Singapore and was a member of both boards.

Suds, a Singapore national of Indian origin, holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Delhi University and an MBA from the Indian Institute of Management. Having lived in India, Hong Kong and Singapore, he has lived in Geneva, Switzerland for the past decade with his family.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sudhanshusarronwala/>

**Mr. Kaddu Sebunya**

*CEO of the African Wildlife Foundation*

Mr. Kaddu Kiwe Sebunya is the Chief Executive Officer of African Wildlife Foundation (AWF). He has over 25 years' experience in conservation at grassroots, national and regional levels in the USA, Africa, and Europe, and is now responsible for driving AWF's long term-strategy.

Kaddu has worked with Oxfam UK, the World Conservation Union - IUCN, USA Peace Corps, Conservation International, and Solimar International.

He believes conserving Africa's wildlife is too important and too urgent to be left to the West alone. He is concerned that big African voices leading the fight against the destruction of habitat and wildlife today are few, arguing that it is time the African elite step forward.



Working with leaders in business, politics, civil society, policy, international development and education as well as the youth, Kaddu is building a global coalition for conservation to protect Africa's natural capital for posterity. He sees conservation as a social, economic, security and health question requiring new partnerships and multi-sectoral strategies for the people and wildlife to benefit.

Kaddu is a member of the China-Africa Wildlife Conservation Council, a group of civil society and business leaders convened by AWF and the Aspen Institute to serve as a people-to-people platform for supporting China-Africa cooperation on wildlife and wildlands conservation, sustainable economic development, and governance. He is also a member of the Club of Rome and contributes frequently to newspapers in Africa, Europe and the USA.

Kaddu has a Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences and two Master's degrees: An MA in Law, Policy and Diplomacy from The Fletcher School, Tufts University, USA; and an MSc in Sustainable Resource Management and Policy (Imperial - Wye College, University of London).