






Transformative Climate Finance Day

11 December 2023
Water Pavilion

Speakers Bios

Opening Ceremony	
	<p>Ms. Meike van Ginneken As Water Envoy, Meike raises water awareness, builds coalitions across countries and organizations, and shares knowhow for a water secure world. Van Ginneken is a recognized water leader who has helped to provide millions of people with access to water & sanitation and energy services. Van Ginneken has interspersed executive headquarter positions at international organizations with extended periods living and working in Africa, Asia and Latin-America. She served as UN Assistant Secretary General at the International Fund for Agricultural Development. As Chief Executive Officer of SNV Netherlands Development Organization, Van Ginneken headed a knowledge driven organization with 1,400 specialized staff working on food, water, and energy. Between 2002 and 2017, Van Ginneken held various leadership positions at the World Bank. She managed the World Bank's US\$5B energy portfolio in West & Central Africa and its US\$6B water portfolio in South Asia.</p>
	<p>Dr Bapon Fakhruddin is an eminent hydro-meteorologist and climate risk assessor with 21 years' global experience in hydro-meteorology and climate resilience projects. His key areas of expertise are integrated water resource management, hazards forecasting, climate and multi-hazard risk assessments and coastal community resilience. Dr Fakhruddin joined GCF to provide leadership and oversight of the portfolio of investments in water resources and climate information and early warning system for addressing climate change. Dr Fakhruddin has played a pivotal role in the design and implementation of weather, water and climate change adaptation projects for saving lives and livelihoods, while reducing property damage for more than 40 countries across Asia, the Caribbean, Africa and the Pacific.</p>
	<p>Ms. Marie-Laure Vercambre</p>

	<p>Mr. Alex Simalabwi is the Executive Secretary of GWPSA-Africa; Head of Climate – Global Water Partnership. Mr. Simalabwi has over 20 years of experience in high-level public policy engagement and advocacy on climate resilient water investments. He is a strategic, visionary leader with a unique blend of skills in resource mobilisation, communication, and partnership development with degrees in civil engineering, MBA, and public policy from Harvard University Kennedy School of Government.</p>
<p>Session 1 : Investment needs and opportunities</p>	
	<p>Jessica Laguardia Economist specialized in project management, design and management of public policies, design of government economic programmes, environmental and climate policies and strategies, financial analysis and grant management, and international multilateral agreements. Ms Jessica Laguardia is the Head of the Climate Change Unit, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador</p>
	<p>Robert K.M. Sunday, fondly known as Sunday is an Assistant Director of Water Resources (Transboundary Waters) in the Tanzania’s Ministry of Water. With thirteen years’ experience, Mr. Sunday is a seasoned expert in hydrology and water resources management, transboundary water management and cooperation, and passionate with institutional strengthening, capacity building, skills development and professional and organizational leadership. He is increasing developing devotion in affairs of resource mobilization.</p> <p>Mr. Sunday manages a number of international portfolios as follows: Co-Chair of the Joint Technical Committee of the Joint Songwe River Basin Commission (SONGWECOM) Tanzania and Malawi; Member of Technical Advisory Committee of Nile Basin Initiative (10 countries); Member of Technical Committee of Zambezi Watercourse Commission (8 countries); Member of Technical Advisory Committee of the African Ministers’ Council on Water (54 countries); and National Focal Point of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) on the 1992 Water Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes among others.</p>



Ms. Yogita Upadya Mumssen is the Manager for the World Bank's Water Global Practice where she manages and leads the Global Solutions Unit and provides strategic direction in delivering cutting edge technical solutions, advice and global knowledge into implementation, with the aim of supporting operational teams based in the regional units that deliver programs to Bank clients. Yogita has managed infrastructure projects, with a focus on the water and sanitation and energy sectors, worldwide. She has worked extensively on regulation, institutional reform, competition policy, private sector participation, results based financing and pro-poor service delivery across the infrastructure sectors, and has several publications in these areas.

Session 2 : *Bridging the investment gap: Fetching financing sources*



Dr Beth Dunford, a national of the United States, is the African Development Bank's Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development. She is responsible for the Bank's strategy, lending, and other activities in the agriculture, water and sanitation, human capital, education, and health sectors. She covers Bank-wide work on employment, civil society, and gender equity. Dr. Dunford's portfolio includes managing implementation of the Dakar 2 Summit Food and Agriculture Delivery Compacts - that mobilized \$52 billion of government resources, development partner and private sector financing to unleash Africa's food production potential. The vice president also oversees implementation of the \$1.5 billion African Emergency Food Production Facility , the African Development Bank's comprehensive initiative to support Africa's smallholder farmers in the wake of disruption of food supplies arising from the Russia-Ukraine war. Dr. Dunford also leads technical expertise for the Bank's multi-billion-dollar response to the Covid-19 pandemic in Africa. Prior to joining the Bank, Dr. Dunford, held senior level leadership positions in the U.S. government where she managed large programs working with the private sector, civil society and multilateral institutions. She has worked with African governments to deliver agricultural, social and human development impact at scale. Dr. Dunford also worked as Assistant to the Administrator in United States Agency for International Development's (USAID's) Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, and as Deputy Coordinator for Development for "Feed the Future," the U.S. government's global hunger and food security initiative.



Naoko Ishii, Executive Vice President and Director, Center for Global Commons, University of Tokyo and Commissioner of the Global Commission on the Economics of Water. Dr. Naoko Ishii is a professor and executive vice president at the University of Tokyo, where she is also the inaugural director for the Center for Global Commons, whose mission is to catalyze systems change so that humans can achieve sustainable development within planetary boundaries. She believes academia can and should play an active role in mobilizing movements towards shared goals of nurturing stewardship of the global commons. Before joining the university, Dr. Ishii was CEO and chairperson of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) from 2012-2020. She formed GEF's first mid-term strategy, GEF 2020, focusing on the transformation of key economic systems. Dr. Ishii entered Japan's Ministry of Finance in 1981 and served as Deputy Vice Minister of Finance from 2010-2012. She holds a B.A. in economics and a Ph.D. in international development, both from the University of Tokyo.



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Claire Elsdon leads CDP's UK Capital Markets team. Claire works with investors and capital markets actors to request and utilise critical climate, water and forest impact data from the companies they finance, through CDP's global disclosure process. Claire started her career broking Pan-European Equities to UK based Institutional Investors for 8 years for HSBC, Merrill Lynch and JP Morgan before moving to Tanzania to establish a pioneering new grassroots social enterprise initiative called Pikilily, tackling the escalating public health issue of avoidable crashes amongst Africa's motorcycle-dependent communities. Claire is an experienced speaker and has participated in a wide range of global events and conferences including: Edie Sustainable Leaders Forum, C40 Cities, United Nations Global Compact – Sustainable Finance, and more.





Sweeny Binsari is Climate Change and NRM Manager at Solidaridad. Sweeny’s background spans across Environment Studies, Community Development and Strategic Management. She’s an experienced Project Management & Business Development professional with over twelve years of technical practice. Sweeny has been involved in the designing, planning, and implementation of different livelihood programmes in the fields of Climate Change, Food Security, Water, Natural Resources Management and Rural Financing. She is currently the Regional Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Manager at Solidaridad East and Central Africa (ECA) an advisory role that entails working with and positively influencing the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Solidaridad’s ECA countries of operation with focus areas of interest around;1. Innovations in Climate Change Resilience for farmers 2. Climate adaptation finance opportunities for Africa 3. Unlocking the Carbon credit potential in the agricultural commodity value chains for Africa and 4. Strengthening Policy, Governance and Capacities



John Matthews is the Executive Director for the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA), co-founded in 2010 with the World Bank. John has been working at the intersection of water with climate adaptation and resilience since 2007. His work explores how we define, develop, and accelerate the uptake of our emerging set of best practices for climate resilience. John started and led WWF’s freshwater climate adaptation program in 2007. He has led the development of a variety of climate risk reduction methodologies that have been used in dozens of countries, prepared green bond criteria that have certified more than 15 billion USD in water resilience investments across six continents, and advised well over 100 countries on their national climate commitments. Current work includes developing a new generation of resilience indicators, leading the development and implementation of a national climate planning tool, working with businesses to incorporate resilience within operations, heading a program to engage macroeconomic planners and central bankers to blend resilience with traditional economic evaluation approaches, and contributing to large-scale technical climate risk assessments. Beyond AGWA, John is a Senior Water Fellow at Colorado State University and Water Resources Courtesy Faculty at Oregon State University, an advisor to the Shockwave Foundation, and on the board of Living in Kindness.



Elizabeth Wathuti (Green Climate Fund Youth Champion) is a Kenyan environment and climate activist and founder of the Green Generation Initiative, which nurtures young people to love nature and be environmentally conscious at a young age and has now planted 30,000 tree seedlings in Kenya. In 2019, she was awarded the Africa Green Person of the Year Award by the Eleven Eleven Twelve Foundation and named as one of the 100 Most Influential Young Africans by the Africa Youth Awards. She is a Full member of The Greenbelt Movement. Founder of Green

	<p>Generation Initiative which nurtures young people to love nature and be environmentally conscious at a young age. A recipient of Wangari Maathai scholarship award, Green Climate Fund Climate youth champion and a regional finalist for Africa for the UN Young Champions of the Earth 2019. Elephant Neighbour's Center Board Member. Youth council member of International Reserva- the youth land trust.</p>
	<p>Kirsten James directs Ceres' strategy for mobilising leading investors and companies to address the sustainability risks facing our freshwater and agriculture systems. Previously, Kirsten served for five years as the director of California policy and partnerships at Ceres, where she led strategy development for our California-focused policy work, engaging companies and investors in support of public policies that call for sustainable water management, clean energy and greenhouse gas emissions reductions in California. Kirsten has been a regular blogger in publications such as Water Deeply, providing commentary on water policy and corporate water stewardship. In her personal capacity, she serves as an executive board member on the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters and a committee appointee for the Los Angeles County Safe, Clean Water Program. Prior to Ceres, Kirsten worked for nine years at the Santa Monica-based environmental group, Heal the Bay, as their Science and Policy Director. She graduated with a bachelor's degree from Northwestern University and a master's degree in environmental science and management from the Bren School at University of California Santa Barbara.</p>
	<p>Joe Ray is Senior Advisor to the Valuing Water Initiative (VWI) at the Netherlands Enterprise & Development Agency. In this role he is the focal point for VWI's work on sustainable finance, leading on the development of partnerships with IGOs, NGOs, FIs, corporates & academia to raise the profile of water issues in the financial sector & drive changes to decision-making. He is also responsible for programme-level engagement with global water policy & governance processes and events such as COP, WWW and the UN 2023 Water Conference. Prior to joining the Dutch government he worked in the non-profit sector at the International Water Association where he managed a global awards programme. He has an interdisciplinary academic background in international relations, political science, economics and international law.</p>

Session 3: Celebration of the Water Change Makers Awards : Scaling-up innovative climate finance and technologies for a water secure world



Dr. Yun, Seog Dae Chief is the Executive Officer of K-water (Korea Water Resources Corporation). He served from 2010 to 2012 as Executive Director of Koscom Corporation. From 2008 to 2010 he served as Assistant - Secretary Senior Secretary Office for Political Affairs, Office of the President of the Republic of Korea. In 2003, Dr. Seog Dae was appointed Chairman of the Board of Directors Daejeon Art High School.

Dr. Seog Dae holds a diploma of Doctor of Engineering from Soongsil University, Seoul, Republic of Korea, a master in Urban Planning and Design from Hannam University, Daejeon, Republic of Korea and a B.A. in Sociology from Chungnam National University, Daejeon, Republic of Korea.

Session 4: Boosting water resilience investments: Enhancing support for stakeholders






Dr. Birguy Lamizana Diallo is a broad-based development professional with over 30 years working in the environmental services institutions. Skilled in Sustainable Development, Environmental Issues, Water Quality, Biodiversity, and Environmental Impact Assessment, she is a strong community and social services professional. Birguy hold an Engineer degree in Water Resources Management and PhD in Freshwater Ecology.

Currently, Birguy leads the Sahel Initiatives, the Great Green Wall Accelerator for the Sahara and the Sahel (GGW) as well as the MENA region at the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD based in Bonn. Prior to joining UNCCD, she was managing the Wastewater portfolio in UNEP. Birguy has also worked with IUCN, coordinating the West Africa Regional wetlands and water resources programme; with Global Water Partnership as the regional coordinator for Africa Water Development and with the African Development Bank (AfDB) as Technical Advisor for the Water Partnership Programme Trust fund. Dr Lamizana Diallo was for 8 years a steering committee member of the CEM/IUCN in charge of Wetlands, drylands and urban ecosystems and a fellow Melvin Jones Companion, at Lions Club International.



Markus Replik is an international development and climate finance executive. Since January 2022 he is Director of the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) Secretariat. SOFF is a new specialized UN fund to close today's major basic weather and climate data gaps, in particular in Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries.

Previously he served as Director of Development Partnerships at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) where he spearheaded the creation of the Alliance for Hydromet Development. Prior to joining WMO, Mr Replik was Managing Director of the Global Mechanism, the operational arm of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). His team shaped operationalization of the SDG target on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). He co-led the development of the

	<p>LDN Fund, the first privately managed public-private investment fund dedicated to an SDG target and measuring the SDG contributions of the fund's investments.</p> <p>Mr Repnik worked 15 years at the World Bank Group, including 10 years as a manager. He was responsible for the Bank's engagement with several African and European countries. As manager of the Bank Group's Climate Policy Team he led the development of the Bank's approach to integrate climate and disaster risk management in all Bank operations.</p>
	<p>Dr. Sarra Touzi is a Water and Climate Resilience Specialist. Since 2022, she joined the Global Climate Team of the Global Water Partnership (GWP) contributing to the coordination of GWP involvement on Water and Climate global processes. She also assisted countries in Africa and Asia enhancing their readiness capacities to access to GCF Climate Finance.</p> <p>Previously, she served as the Head of the North Africa Head Office and Climate Change Lead at the Global Water Partnership Mediterranean (GWP-Med) where she led successfully the development of and the overall management of several projects in the MENA region both at national and regional scales.</p> <p>Dr. Touzi is Sarra holds a PhD on management sciences from the University of Corté, Corsica-France, a MSc on water science from the Institute of Forestry, Agricultural and Environmental Engineering, Paris-France and a Hydraulic and rural management engineering degree from the National Institute of Agronomy of Tunisia – Tunisia.</p>
	<p>Ms. Marie-Sara Bouloumou, Islamic Relief France</p>
<p><i>Session 4: Boosting water resilience investments: Enhancing support for stakeholders</i></p>	
	<p>Hon. Malcolm Stufkens</p> <p>Vice-Minister of Energy, Natural Resources, Environment and Mines - Republic of Honduras</p>