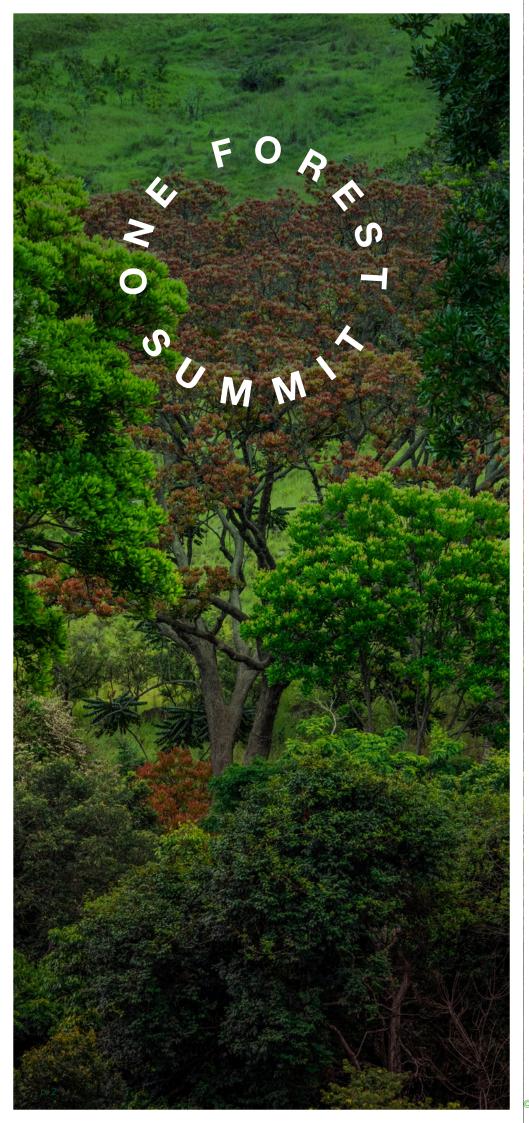


THE ONE PLANET SUMMIT FOR TROPICAL RAINFORESTS

A summit to advance our collective ambition for the conservation and sustainable management of tropical rainforests

MARCH 1 AND 2, 2023 IN LIBREVILLE, GABON

PRESS KIT



CONTENTS

- 5 Message from the President of the Republic
- **Quotes from Ministers**
- 8 Presentation of the One Forest Summit
- The protection of tropical forests: some key facts
- 12 The summit's program
- 15 Projects and initiatives
- 16 Among the attendees
- 20 Press contacts

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC



To contain global warming and save our biodiversity, it is obvious: we need to protect primary forests, mangroves and peat bogs. These areas, only 15% of the world's surface, represent in fact 75% of the irrecoverable carbon and the ecosystems of more than 90% of vertebrate species.

It is a world natural heritage, a precious common good that it is crucial to preserve for the survival of the environment and of humanity. However, the States that host these spaces are not sufficiently helped to maintain them and must alone bear the cost of what benefits to all.

Much work has already been done to preserve these forests and irreplaceable reserves of carbon and biodiversity, in which a part of our common destiny is at stake. But let us be clear: a lot of work remains to be done. In particular, the fight against uncontrolled deforestation must be reinforced, the support to sustainable exploitation must be more implemented, compensation mechanisms and support for conservation must be better financed. A partnership method has yet to be invented. We must be ambitious and concrete to support the States that have the opportunity but also the responsibility for these primary forests.

This is the roadmap for the One Forest Summit co-organized with Gabon on March 1 and 2 in Libreville, following an international action initiated since 2017, and which aims to create coalitions of actors providing political support and funding for specific and decisive causes. This international summit dedicated to forests will thus be both a milestone and the beginning of a common path.

We must be faster, more united and more determined than ever in the fight against global warming and for biodiversity. Let's be up to the challenge!

>>

Presentation of the One Forest Summit, in Libreville on March 1 and 2, 2023

QUOTES FROM MINISTERS



This summit is a Franco-Gabonese initiative to mobilize the international community in favor of the preservation of tropical forests.

Tropical forests of the Congo Basin, the Amazon and Asia are the lungs of the planet. They are essential for the climate, for biodiversity and for the people who live in them and make a living from them.

By bringing together leaders, scientists, companies and youth from around the world, this One Forest Summit will aim to find common and sustainable solutions, for the future of our forests and our planet.



Chrysoula Zacharopoulou

Minister of State for Development, Francophonie and International Partnerships



Under the impetus of the President of the Republic, this first One Forest Summit will continue the path traced by France for several years in favor of global protection of biodiversity. The ambitions that we are carrying at the national level, such as the Billion Tree Plan or the national strategy for protected areas, must find resonance at the international level in the pursuit of the historic agreement reached at COP15 last December.

We are collectively bound by the effects of climate change. Focusing on the preservation of the three major African, Amazonian and Asian tropical forest basins demonstrates the importance of supporting the most vulnerable countries to protect their biodiversity treasures and fight against CO₂ emissions.

On March 1 and 2, in Libreville, we will be fully mobilized with all the actors of the civil society, companies, scientists and global decision-makers to make commitments to preserve tropical forests.



Christophe Béchu

Minister of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion



The answer to the main issues of our time is scientific. The fight against climate change and the preservation of biodiversity are no exception, far from it.

The One Forest Summit responds to a clear commitment of the French President: to increase solidarity and actions for the preservation of the three largest forest basins in the world, in particular by strengthening scientific cooperation.

Through the study, in conjunction with local populations, of the key role of tropical forests as carbon sinks and biodiversity sanctuaries, France, as an Amazonian state, is particularly committed to these efforts. Indeed, our country is conducting important research and training programs. While these programs aim to protect the environment and strengthen the resilience of ecosystems, we must never forget that humans also benefit from them. Deforestation increases the risk of zoonotic diseases, and today, more than ever, we measure what the effects on our societies may be.

The objective of the long-standing cooperations, of which the Summit is a high point, is to allow scientists, decision-makers and young people to build together a vision of a sustainable development of tropical forests.



Sylvie Retailleau

Minister of Higher Education and Research

PRESENTATION OF THE ONE FOREST SUMMIT

WHY DEDICATE A SUMMIT TO FORESTS?

As announced by President of the Gabonese Republic Ali Bongo Ondimba and President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron during COP27 in November 2022 in Sharm el-Sheikh, a One Forest Summit will be organized on March 1 and 2, 2023 in Libreville, Gabon.

This summit will be a key moment to move forward on climate action and the preservation of biodiversity, by promoting solidarity between the three major forest basins on a global scale: the Amazon Forest, the Congo basin and the tropical forests of Southeast Asia. The protection of these three forest basins is a global issue. By sequestering hundreds of millions of tons of CO₂¹, these forest basins play a critical role in climate regulation. They are home to exceptional flora and fauna and invaluable treasures of biodiversity. Furthermore, by acting as buffers between human societies and the microbial cycles of the wild areas, they play a key role in preventing the emergence of new epidemics.

WHY HOLD A SUMMIT IN GABON?

Gabon, whose territory is 88% covered by the equatorial forest, located in one of the two main green lungs of the planet, is on the front line of the fight against global warming and the protection of biodiversity, two priorities which have long been at the top of the national policy agenda. A forerunner, Gabon has also voluntarily committed to protecting one third of its natural areas, both terrestrial and marine. Preparing for the post-oil era for more than a decade, Gabon has adopted an economic model that combines industrial development and sustainable management of its natural resources, as demonstrated by the exploitation of wood, of which Gabon is one of the world's leading producers.

 Forests are the world's second largest carbon sink after the oceans: they absorb twice as much CO₂ as they emit. On a global scale, the Global Forest Watch estimates that they absorb a net amount of 7.6 billion tons of CO₂ per year.

WHAT WILL BE THE OBJECTIVES AND TANGIBLE ADVANCEMENTS AT THIS SUMMIT?

This Summit, which will bring together heads of state and ministers from all continents, will address issues related to the preservation of the three major forest basins, following the historic agreement reached in Montreal on the protection of biodiversity.

The protection of forests is sometimes placed in opposition to the economic development of forest countries, many of which are also subject to strong demographic pressure. The aim of the Summit is to demonstrate that the two objectives are reconcilable: managing a forest in a sustainable way allows both to preserve the ecosystem services to humanity and to increase its economic benefits for forest countries and local populations.

In practical terms, the One Forest Summit in Libreville will not aim to adopt new political declarations. We already have an ambitious framework: it is the one set by the Paris Agreement and then in Glasgow during COP27 as well as in Montreal during COP15. The challenge will be to implement this ambition by offering forest countries, with the help of many scientists, business leaders, investors and NGOs, a platform of scientific and economic solutions to help them to reconcile protection of their forests and economic development.

The first objective will be to **provide large forest countries with very concrete solutions** to enable them to derive economic benefits from more protective forest policies:

• By developing more sustainable supply chains for products that will be sold at higher prices on international markets and will benefit local populations more. Such industrial fields already exist: for example, sustainably harvested wood products used for construction and renovation of buildings, including the new CLT (Cross-laminated timber) industry, which is an innovative solution to reduce the carbon footprint of our infrastructure. Food products from agroforestry and other responsible practices also have enormous potential:



coffee, cocoa, rubber, etc. The challenge is to support these sectors to accompany their scaling up, and to stimulate the demand for these products or materials, in line with the new European policy to fight against deforestation. An economic forum for forests will be organized in Libreville to accelerate the development of these sectors, through the sharing of expertise, training, and new opportunities for economic partnerships.

- By remunerating countries that reduce deforestation or reforest and thus increase the sequestration capacity of their forests (REDD+). In this respect, private actors have a key role to play through what we call "carbon credits": in concrete terms, a company that wishes to contribute to the fight against global warming will be able to invest in projects that increase the net sequestration capacity of the forest, through land restoration or reforestation projects for example. To avoid any green washing, we will gather the actors in Libreville who are engaged in the segment of this market with the highest environmental integrity, and thus brings the most profit to forest countries (with high yield projects, some exceeding 30\$ per ton of CO₂).
- Finally, some areas of the forest are still intact and represent vital reserves of carbon or biodiversity (e.g. mangroves), which must be protected in the framework of parks or biosphere reserves. The Libreville summit will also allow for the launch of innovative mechanisms to finance these protected areas, through positive conservation partnerships (PCP), following the initiative launched by France and Gabon on the sidelines of COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, as well as the Forest Land Investment Partnerships (FLIP) launched by the United States in Davos in January 2023.

The second objective of this Summit will be to strengthen scientific cooperation between the three major tropical basins of the world, to increase international expertise on the services provided by forests. The links between biodiversity and health will be explored (through the PREZODE initiative), the traditional practices that allow for the protection of endemic species, but also to improve the mapping of these areas, whose ecological wealth remains poorly known. Just as with sea beds, if we want to improve their protection, we must improve our understanding of these ecosystems.

Finally, by organizing it in Libreville, the objective of this Summit will also be to **put forward the contribution of African forests**, still largely unknown to the public, a few months before the summit on Amazonia which should be organized by Brazil and Colombia. **The Congo-Ogooué Forest basin is an extraordinary lung for the planet**. Among the three major forest basins, it has the highest net CO₂ sequestration rate.

In the spirit of the previous One Planet Summits, this summit will not only bring together representatives of states from all continents and international organizations, but also companies and investors, associations, scientists and experts, and local authorities. This plurality of actors is the strength of the One Planet summits. It allows us to mobilize the private sector's resources for the ecological transition and to change practices at all levels.

The One Forest Summit in Libreville will not be just another summit. It will lead to promoting action and to the wide scale implementation of vital decisions for our planet's future.

THE PROTECTION OF TROPICAL FORESTS: SOME KEY FACTS

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PROVIDED BY FORESTS:

- → Rainforests are the largest reservoir of life. They are home to:
 - 50 to 75% of terrestrial biodiversity²;
 - 70% of known plant species on an area equivalent to 12% of the planet's land area³;
 - two thirds of the world's flowering plants⁴;
 - more than 90% of vertebrate species⁵.
- → 350 million people in the world depend directly on tropical rainforests⁶.
- → Nearly 1.6 billion people depend on forests to meet their basic needs, or one fifth of the world's population⁷.
- → The wealth represented by some forest ecosystem services is estimated at about 9% of global gross domestic product⁸.
- → Over the centuries, tropical forests, peatlands and mangroves have sequestered between 139.1 and 443.6 Gt of carbon, i.e. 75% of the so-called "unrecoverable" carbon⁹.
- → Spanning six countries, the Congo Basin is the largest carbon sink in the world¹⁰.

CONSEQUENCES OF POOR MANAGEMENT OF TROPICAL FORESTS/LINK TO INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

- → Tropical deforestation is responsible for 13% of global CO₂ emissions¹¹.
- → 23% of total anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions (2007-2016) come from agriculture, forestry and other land uses. About 11% of overall emissions are from forestry and other land use, mostly deforestation, while the remaining 12% are direct emissions from agricultural production such as livestock and fertilisers¹².
- → 220 million hectares of tropical rainforests have been lost since 1990, or 17% of tropical rainforests, to agriculture and other land uses¹³.
- → More than 30% of new diseases reported since 1960 are attributed to land-use change, including deforestation, and 15% of the 250 emerging infectious diseases have been associated with forests. Deforestation, particularly in tropical regions, has been associated with an increase in infectious diseases such as dengue fever and malaria¹⁴.
- → Each year, the destruction of forests represents 1/5 of the surface of France¹⁵.
- 2. IRD, CIRAD: <u>ird.fr/les-forets-tropicales-humides-avenir-de-la-planete</u>
- 3. Ibidem
- 4. Ibidem
- 5. Ibidem
- 6. Ibidem
- AFD: afd.fr/fr/actualites/6-bonnes-raisons-de-preserver-lesforets
- 8. FAO: fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca8642en
- 9. Sciences&vie: science-et-vie.com/article-magazine/voici-les-reserves-de-carbone-a-preserver-a-tout-prix
- 10. Banque mondiale <u>banquemondiale.org/fr/news/feature/2022/10/24/journey-into-the-congo-basin-the-lungs-of-africa-and-beating-heart-of-the-world</u>
- 11. MTECT: statistiques.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/edition-numerique/chiffres-cles-du-climat-2022/pdf/chiffres-cles-du-climat-2022-integral.pdf
- GIEC: ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/4/2020/02/SPM_ Updated-Jan20.pdf
- **13.** CIRAD: cirad.fr/espace-presse/communiques-de-presse/2021/perte-220-millions-hectares-de-forets-tropicales-humides
- 14. FAO: fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca8642en
- **15.** IRD, CIRAD : <u>ird.fr/les-forets-tropicales-humides-avenir-de-la-planete</u>



→ 420 million hectares of forest — an area larger than the European Union — were lost to deforestation between 1990 and 2020¹⁶.

FINANCING SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT:

- → About 40 new conservation trust funds have been established since 2010, joining 68 such funds already established. Many national climate funds provide windows that can support the forestry sector¹⁷.
- → Total funding for the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests must increase threefold by 2030 and fourfold by 2050 for the world to achieve climate, biodiversity, and land degradation neutrality goals, an estimated \$203 billion per year by 2050¹⁸.
- → Stopping deforestation could avoid the emission of about 3.6 GtCO₂ per year between 2020 and 2050, which is equivalent to 14% of the additional mitigation needed by 2030 to keep global warming below 1.5°C¹9.

PROGRESS IN SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT/PRESERVATION OF FORESTS ALREADY MEASURABLE:

- → The Congo Basin region experienced a surge in protected area creation in the 1990s. Today, it has 206 reserves covering 799,000 square kilometers, or 14.8% of its land area and 5% of the exclusive marine economic zone of the Central African countries²⁰.
- → The reduction in deforestation is between 73% and 70% in the protected areas of the Congo Basin²¹.
- → In Gabon, where 44% of the forest territory is covered by sustainable management concessions, the deforestation rate did not exceed 0.04% per year between 2000 and 2010²².
- → "The rate of deforestation is now ten times lower in the Congo Basin than in the Amazon. And the region is home to the majority of FSC-certified tropical forest concessions", Christophe du Castel, AFD²³.
- → Between 2010 and 2020, the Amazonian forests lost 3% of their surface area, which is half the amount lost in the previous decade²⁴.
- → In South America, 31% of forests are located within protected areas²⁵.
- **20.** Le Monde : lemonde.fr/planete/visuel/2021/10/29/le-bassindu-congo-deuxieme-puits-de-carbone-du-monde-entre-preservation-et-exploitation_6100375_3244.html
- 21. AFD: afd.fr/fr/ressources/etude-devaluation-dimpact-desmodes-de-gestion-forestiere-sur-le-couvert-forestier-dans-le-bassin-du-congo
- 22. OFAC: observatoire-comifac.net/publications/edf/2015
- 23. AFD : afd.fr/fr/actualites/30-ans-action-afd-pour-forets-dubassin-du-congo
- $\begin{tabular}{ll} \bf 24. & \tt IRD, CIRAD: \underline{ird.fr/les-forets-tropicales-humides-avenir-de-laplanete} \\ \end{tabular}$
- **25.** IRD, CIRAD: https://www.ird.fr/les-forets-tropicales-humides-avenir-de-la-planete

16. FAO : fao.org/3/ca9825en/ca9825en.pdf

17. FAO: fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca8642en

18. FAO : fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca8642en

19. FAO : fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca8642en

THE SUMMIT'S PROGRAM

- March 1 and 2, 2023
- Radisson Blu Hotel and Presidential Palace, Libreville

Types of events:

Ministerial Sessions, co-chaired by ministers, open to all participants

Leaders' segment, open to heads of state and government and select participants

Side Events, organised by third parties, open to all participants

Closed Events, invite only

MARCH 1

Ministerial, civil society and expert level day

Radisson Blu Hotel

Morning

9:30-10:00am Introductory Session by Ministers Lee White

and Chrysoula Zacharopoulou

PROMOTING SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION ON RAINFORESTS

10:15-11:45am	One Forest Vision
	Part 1 - Advances in forest monitoring
	Key issues for rainforests: new approaches for observation, monitoring and data management
12:00-1:30pm	One Forest Vision
	Part 2 - Governance, partnership, training, research needs for a fair data platform

FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE VALUE CHAINS

10:15-11:45am	The sustainable exploitation of forests and the valorisation of wood products Sustainable forest management, wood for construction and energy
12:00-1:30pm	Workshop on agroforestry and living income for producers Example of the cocoa and coffee industry

UNLOCKING INNOVATIVE SOURCES OF FINANCING

10:15-11:45am	Making market-based instruments deliver for climate, nature and people Report on innovative finance mechanisms led by the GEF
12:00-1:30pm	A coalition of champions to scale-up high environmental value carbon

SIDE EVENT

Ī	12:00-1:30pm	Coalition for the Congo Basin
		Corporate coalition to support conservation work in the Congo Basin
		Organised by WWF

CLOSED EVENTS

CLOSED EVENTS	
12:00-1:30pm	Strategic Orientation Committee of the International Coalition on "Biodiversity corridors in Africa" Organised by Climate Chance
1:30-3:00pm	Ministerial Lunch COP15 Follow up: Implementing the Kunming- Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework



Afternoon

PROMOTING SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION ON RAINFORESTS

3:00-4:30pm	Umbrella species of tropical forests and their link with the natural and cultural heritage of humanity
4:45-6:15pm	Fighting deforestation to prevent zoonoses Preventing Zoonotic Disease Emergence (PREZODE)

FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE VALUE CHAINS

	3:00-4:30pm	Workshop on traceability, the key to sustainability Tools for traceability and challenges of European regulation
	4:45-6:15pm	Workshop on Sustainable Use of Forest Resources
١		The case of the cosmetic and pharmaceutical industry

UNLOCKING INNOVATIVE SOURCES OF FINANCING

3:00-4:30pm	Leveraging innovative finance mechanisms for nature
	Debt-for-nature swaps, forest bonds, payment for ecosystem services, biodiversity certificates, etc.

SIDE EVENT

3:00-4:30pm	Ecological connectivity and compensation: an opportunity to recover biodiversity? Organised by Climate Chance
4:45-6:15pm	Mangrove Breakthrough at One Forest Summit Organised by Climate Champions
4:45-6:15pm	Sustainable Public Private Partnerships in tropical zones Organised by Meridiam and FGIS

CLOSED EVENTS

4:45-6:15pm	Ministerial meet-up with representatives of the One Forest Youth Forum
Evening	To Be Confirmed

MARCH 2

Morning

Ministerial, civil society and expert level day

9 Hôtel Radisson Blu

ONE FOREST BUSINESS FORUM

9:00-10:15am	Meeting of business leaders on the main messages to convey to government leaders (closed session)
10:15-10:45am	Pitching session of innovative solutions for forest preservation
10:45-12:15am	Dialogue between Ministers, business and civil society leaders

SIDE EVENT

CLOSED EVENTS

	10:45-11:15am	Hackathon
		A co-design tool to support the One Forest Vision - reflection workshop
İ	12:30-2:00pm	One Forest Business Forum Working Lunch

Afternoon

High-level segment for heads of state and government

Presidential Palace

3:00-3:30pm	Heads of state and government opening session Preserving the heart and lungs of the planet
3:30-4:30pm	One Forest Lab Panel 1 Tropical rainforest protection as a global challenge? A dialogue with the scientific community
4:30-5:00pm	High-level keynotes on the protection of tropical forests
5:00-6:30pm	One Forest Lab Panel 2 Is there a business case to protect tropical rainforests? A dialogue with CEOs and the financial sector
6:30-7:00pm	Closing Ceremony Speeches by the Presidents of the French Republic and of the Gabonese Republic

Evening Diner cocktail with heads of state and government

PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES



→ Expansion of the PREZODE initiative (Preventing Zoonotic Disease Emergence)

This innovative international initiative aims to understand the risks of emergence of infectious zoonotic diseases, to develop and implement innovative methods to improve prevention, early detection and resilience to ensure a rapid response to emerging infectious diseases of animal origin.

→ Green Deal: accompanying European legislation to fight deforestation and forest degradation induced by EU production and consumption

A provisional political agreement has just been reached between the European Parliament and the Council on a EU regulation on « zero deforestation » supply chains. Once adopted and implemented, the new legislation will ensure that certain key goods placed on the EU market will no longer contribute to deforestation and forest degradation in the EU and elsewhere in the world.

→ One Planet Lab: work report by the Global Environement Facility (GEF)

In partnership with One Planet Lab, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) is leading the creation and coordination of a high-level working group on innovative mechanisms for positive nature outcomes to address biodiversity financing needs, as announced by the President of the Republic during COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh

The aim of the Working Group is to explore the potential for schemes such as carbon credits with a high environmental impact and new biodiversity credits or certificates, to identify barriers to be addressed for their development, integrity and scaling up, and to make recommendations on how such innovative mechanisms can deliver both climate and nature-positive outcomes, while

bridging the finance gap. The group should in particular review and benchmark the different metrics and frameworks for measurement and reporting on nature impact and their potential for solid and independent verification and certification, without which they would not meet expectations.

→ Concretization of a coalition of donors around the notion of Partnerships for Positive Conservation (PCPs)

At UNFCCC COP27, France, together with the United-States, China and Costa Rica, brought together heads of state and government and ministers from Africa, Asia and Latin America, as well as leaders of international organizations and civil society. Participants affirmed the need to conserve and protect vital reserves of irreplaceable carbon and biodiversity as a priority and announced their willingness to work together to form Positive Conservation Partnerships (PCPs). PCPs would therefore be partnerships between countries that hold the most important reserves of biodiversity and are committed to upscale their areas or level of protection, and public and private donors that can provide funding and political support.

→ Involvement of the youth for the protection of forests

Involving youth in the action, reflections and decisions made around the One Forest Summit will be possible thanks to the organization of the One Forest Youth Forum, a youth initiative that will be able to present their recommendations at the summit.

AMONG THE ATTENDEES

Razan Al Mubarak

President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and UN Climate high level champion for COP28

Razan Al Mubarak is the second woman to lead the organization in its 75-year history. She is also the founding director of the Mohamed bin Zayed Fund for Species Conservation, which since its inception has supported more than 2,500 species conservation projects in over 160 countries. She has been announced as a high-level climate champion for the COP28 presidency.

Bertrand Badré

Founder and partner of Blue like an Orange Sustainable Capital

His impact investment fund invests in companies in emerging markets that are in line with sustainable development goals. From 2013 to 2016, he served as Managing Director of the World Bank.

Juan Pablo Bonilla

Director of the Climate Change Sector and Sustainable Development Sector of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Previously, he was a senior advisor to the Executive Vice President. Dr. Bonilla has worked on environmental sustainability, climate change and energy for more than 20 years. He chaired the Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Initiative, a major strategic step in integrating climate change and sustainable development as an IDB priority. Prior to joining this organization, Dr. Bonilla worked as a senior specialist at the World Bank, and was a member of the UN CDM Executive Board.

Kim Carstensen

Executive Director of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

As a recognized global leader in the environment and development sectors, Kim Carstensen led FairGreen Solutions, a consulting firm that helped to link the concepts of green economy and sustainable development for clients in the Global South. Her strategic approach comes from a long history of global leadership, most recently as head of WWF International's Global Climate Initiative.

Craig Cogut

Founder and partner of Pegasus Capital

Pegasus is working to change private equity investing by integrating social and environmental factors into the investment process. For 25 years, sustainability and health have been at the heart of its investment strategies, with many award-winning portfolio companies creating lasting positive impact. It is the first U.S. private equity firm to be accredited by the Green Climate Fund.

Ronan Dantec

Vice-Chairman of the French Senate Committee on Territorial Planning and Sustainable Development, President of the association Climate Chance

Ronan Dantec is an activist who participated in the formation of the Green Party and has been involved in local and parliamentary mandates on energy, transport and biodiversity policies. His association Climate Chance is composed of members from the nine groups of non-state actors recognized by the United Nations; it aims to strengthen climate action by local authorities, businesses and civil society in favor of the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

Ani Dasgupta

President and CEO of the World Resources Institute

Ani Dasgupta is a widely recognized leader in the fields of sustainable cities, urban planning, and poverty reduction. He has developed his expertise in positions ranging from non-profit organizations in India to the World Bank, where he developed the World Bank's first knowledge strategy.



Ousmane Diagana

World Bank Vice-President for West and Central Africa

Prior to his appointment, Ousmane Diagana was the World Bank Group's Vice President for Human Resources. In this capacity, he led the Bank's overall human resources strategy and oversaw the development and implementation of the Group's people management strategy, human resources policies, programs and services.

Mafalda Duarte

Head of the Climate Investment Fund

Mafalda Duarte has spent most of her career living and working in more than 30 developing countries, where, in partnership with governments and other stakeholders, she has led the design and implementation of policies, programs and projects that can make a real difference in people's lives.

Serge Ekue

Special Advisor to the President of the West African Development Bank (BOAD)

As a recognized expert in financial and capital markets, Serge Ekue headed Natixis' Asia-Pacific markets activities for nearly 6 years (2010-2016) before assuming the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Hong Kong-based bank. He has more than 20 years of experience in international finance having held these broad responsibilities around the world.

Dieudonne Evou Mekou

President of the Development Bank of Central African States (BDEAC)

In 2000, Dieudonné Evou Mekou was appointed Deputy General Manager of Crédit Lyonnais Cameroun. In 2005, he was appointed General Manager of the Caisse Autonome d'Amortissement (CAA), a position he held until 2016 before joining the Central Bank.

Yannick Glemarec

Executive Director of the Green Climate Fund (GCF)

Yannick Glemarec has 30 years of international experience in climate change, development and finance, and their interrelationships.

Gagan Gupta

Founder and CEO of Arise

As an entrepreneur, Gagan Gupta is the founder and CEO of Arise IIP, Arise IS and Arise P&L, three companies specializing in the design, financing, construction and management of state-of-the-art infrastructure in Africa. Arise has become one of the largest infrastructure investment platforms in Africa in less than 10 years. Gagan Gupta has placed sustainability at the heart of his companies' operations and strategy, promoting traceability, using renewable energy, preserving biodiversity and achieving carbon neutrality.

Kevin Kariuki

Vice President for Power, Energy Climate and Green Growth at the African Development Bank

Kevin Kariuki, a Kenyan national, is a registered electrical engineer with over 30 years of experience in power system development, renewable energy development and energy efficiency, climate change and green growth, strategic energy partnerships, energy finance solutions, policy and regulation.

Margaret Kim

General Manager of Gold Standard

The Gold Standard for the Global Goals quantifies, certifies and maximizes the impacts of climate and development interventions on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.

Margaret Kim was previously the Green Climate Fund Liaison in the Office of the Director General of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and has previously held senior positions in the private sector, renewables and energy efficiency, climate change and green growth, strategic energy partnerships, energy finance solutions, policy and regulation.

Sabrina Krief

Veterinarian and primatologist, professor at the National Museum of Natural History

Sabrina Krief studied wild chimpanzees and then primates. As an activist for the defense of great apes with populations and governments, she founded the association Project for the Conservation of Great Apes and is involved in environmental education in France and on the African continent. Her work also focuses on the relationship between great apes and humans and the effect of human activities on their behavior, health and survival.

Alvaro Lario

President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

With a long history as an expert in international development finance, IFAD became under his leadership the first UN fund to enter the capital markets and to obtain a credit rating, allowing it to expand its resource mobilization efforts to the private sector. Previously, he was head of the Treasury and Capital Markets Department at the World Bank Group's International Finance Corporation, where his work included local capital market development and emerging market investments.

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema

Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

Previously, she was Director of the Legal Division of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi, Kenya. With more than two decades of experience at the UN, Elizabeth Maruma Mrema brings to this position extensive experience in global environmental law and policy and in the implementation of environmental and sustainable development programs, as well as an in-depth knowledge of multilateral processes.

Tamara Moutotekama Boussamba

Founder and General Manager of AGRIDIS

Former vice-president of the National Youth Council of Gabon, she participated in the implementation of the Sustainable Development and Youth program and tech training for rural women. As an activist against poverty and women's empowerment, Tamara Moutotekama Boussamba is involved with various associations and has been at the head of her agribusiness company whose activities cover the production and distribution of agricultural products in Gabon since 2017. She is the organizer of the One Forest Youth Forum organized in Libreville on the sidelines of the One Forest Summit.

Marc Palahi

Director of the European Forest Institute

Marc Palahi holds a PhD in forestry and economics, and his work, which has been published in Nature and other top scientific journals, focuses on developing a sustainable circular bioeconomy that thrives in harmony with nature.

Berta Pesti

Head of the Secretariat of the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Berta Pesti was previously the Technical Advisor for REDD+ Finance and Technical Specialist on Climate Change at UNDP. She was also a delegate to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Carlos Manuel Rodriguez

Chairman of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Carlos Manuel Rodriguez is a former Minister of the Environment of Costa Rica and describes himself as "a lawyer by profession, a politician by choice and an environmentalist by heart". He is also a former member of the EPI Board of Directors and played a key role in the COP15 conference in Montreal.



M. Sanjayan

Executive Director of Conservation International (CI)

M. Sanjayan is an American scientist and writer. He has helped to build public-private coalitions for massive forest restoration efforts around the world, launched a pioneering blue carbon project in Colombia, and the Blue Nature Multi-Stakeholder Alliance, which aims to protect 18 million square kilometers of ocean in 5 years. Previously, M Sanjayan served as a senior scientist for The Nature Conservancy.

Robert Schoellhammer

Representative of the European Representative Office of the Asian Development Bank

Based in Frankfurt, Germany, Robert Schoellhammer has worked in all regions of Asia Pacific, with a particular focus on East and Central Asia. Previously, he taught economics and managed projects. He holds degrees in development economics and agriculture from the Universities of East Anglia and Aberdeen, UK.

Emma Stokes

Vice President of Field Conservation for the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

Former Director of Conservation Science for WCS programs in Africa and Director of WCS's regional program for Central Africa, she now leads the global portfolio of regional programs. As a biologist, her work includes contributing to a significant upward revision of the western Congo population of gorillas, leading conservation effectiveness monitoring programs for tigers in Southeast Asia, and a portfolio of projects to measure and improve the impact of conservation in Africa. Her role was instrumental in the creation of the Spatial Monitoring & Reporting Tool (SMART) partnership, which continues to be widely adopted in over 600 sites in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Frans Timmermans

Executive Vice-President of the European Commission

He leads the work of the commission on the European Green Deal and its goal of becoming the first climate neutral continent by 2050.

Philippe Zaouati

CEO of Mirova

Mirova, which he founded, manages around 4 billion euros in equities, bonds, infrastructure and social finance. Philippe Zaouti was previously Deputy Managing Director of Natixis Asset Management, an asset management company, in charge of the business development teams and the Responsible Investment division. Philippe Zaouati has been very involved for several years in the development of responsible finance in France and in Europe.

