

*Venue: GEF Partnership Pavilion, Pavilion Area H
(next to the UNFCCC Momentum for Change Pavilion)*

Thursday 6 December

09:30-10:00	<p>From Egypt to Poland: Opening message of the Rio Conventions Pavilion Presenting a re-cap of the Rio Conventions Pavilion programme at CBD COP14 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt Speakers: Gustavo Fonseca, GEF; Veronica Lo, CBD</p>
Private Sector Contributions to Integrated Achievement of the Rio Conventions Objectives	
10:00-11:30	<p>Private sector leadership forum: funding, strategies and opportunities (Responding to Climate Change) Discussing why leading multinationals believe green growth is an opportunity, and provide an opportunity for audience members to learn more from top industry practitioners in a workshop environment.</p>
11:30-13:00	<p>Driving climate innovation in developing countries This will be an action-oriented event demonstrating the potential of private-sector-led climate innovation in developing countries. Emerging market climate businesses and entrepreneurs driving innovation in their countries will join multinational companies and financial innovators dedicated to sustainability and active in developing markets.</p> <p>Speakers: Ms Pamela Phua, AkzoNobel, Singapore; Dr Maria João, Viotti & Leite Campos Advogados, Brazil; Bill Bien, Signify, Netherlands, Mr Nathaniel Barak, Netafim -Israel/ Mexichem Mexico; Mr Gustavo Emina CEO, NewSteel -Brazil; Mr Sunit Kishore, CEO,MY RYDE, Ms Luciane Moessa de Souza, Sustainable Inclusive Solutions, Maître Ana Paula Chagas, Rolim Viotti & Leite Campos Associados, Mr David Solomon Jalajel, Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize For Water Moderator: Karl Mathiesen. Climate Home</p>
Synergies in Implementation of the Rio Conventions	
13:30 – 15:00	<p>Integrating the implementation of the Rio Conventions: Opportunities and Concrete Steps (UNCCD, GEF) This event will explore linkages between sustainable land management, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and climate change. Speakers will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight barriers, opportunities and steps for synergistic implementation of the three Rio Conventions, describing a “UN Delivering as One” approach by using an integrated Rio Conventions Project Preparation Facility; • Discuss country-level experiences in synergies; and • Discuss an innovative spatial planning tool to help countries determine where they can maximize synergies. <p>Speakers: Barron Joseph Orr, UNCCD; Stephen Muwaya, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Uganda; Martial Bernoux, FAO; Filippo Berardi, GEF; Jamison Ervin, UNDP Moderator: Veronica Lo, CBD</p>

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Friday 7 December

Ecosystem Restoration

09:30-11:00 **Towards a joint peatland declaration: MEAs answer to reverse the trend on peatland degradation (Wetlands International, Global Peatlands Initiative, Ramsar Convention)**
Peatlands are unique ecosystems that offer important ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, water supply and purification, atmospheric cooling, flood prevention, biomass production for food and others. The services peatlands provide are globally and locally relevant both for urban and rural areas. Peatland conservation, restoration, wise use and management can be realized and supported by different MEAs. To strengthen synergies and amplify efforts to maintain and restore ecosystem services of peatlands, the Ramsar Convention, UNCCD, UNCBD and UNFCCC are beginning to work together on a joint declaration. This event will explore the process towards a joint peatland declaration with the aim to strengthen cooperation and utilize synergies for the conservation, restoration and wise use of peatlands. Outcomes include a Proposals for Declaration outline and road map for signing and implementation.
Speakers: Francisco Rilla, Director of Science and Policy, Ramsar Convention; Monique Barbut, Secretary General, UNCCD (video message); Representatives from UNCCD, CBD and UNFCCC; Prof. Hans Joosten, International Mire Conservation Group; Dianna Kopansky, Global Peatlands Initiative Coordinator, UN Environment; Representatives from Germany, Indonesia, Mongolia and Russia (tbc)
Moderators: Jane Madgwick, Wetlands International CEO and Dianna Kopansky. Coordinator of Global Peatlands Initiative (UNE)

11:00 – 12:30 **Earth Systems to the Rescue: How to lock in carbon without depending on blue sky technologies**
Technologies such as BECCS that draw carbon away from the atmosphere and lock it into or under the ground can give great cause for concern due to the potential of destroying valuable ecosystems to establish plantations of fast-growing trees for use as biofuels. Regenerating natural forests, by contrast, stores carbon both into trees and into the forest floor. Greater ecological literacy can be the source of solutions that are not merely effective, but also highly profitable. This side event will look at the processes needed to increase the ecological literacy of decision makers and discuss a real life example by showcasing an investor whose BECCS project has, turned into a multitiered agroforestry system that has generated commodity production and enhanced livelihoods..
Speakers: Carl Pendragon, CEO, Skymining; Patrick Worms, President, European Agroforestry Federation; Peter Akong Minang, Leader, Greening Tree Crop Landscapes, World Agroforestry Centre; Brittany Cole Bush, rancher and Soil4Climate; Martin Frick, UNFCCC

Sustainable Infrastructure

13:00–14:30 **Implementing the Mitigation Hierarchy (BirdLife, GEF, UNCCD, CSBI (TBC))**
Building on discussions at CBD COP14, in this event, speakers will:

- Introduce the Mitigation Hierarchy and its four stages;
- Provide a brief re-cap of the Mitigation Hierarchy discussions at COP14 and outcomes from CBC COP14 in Egypt;
- Discuss opportunities for strengthening the mitigation hierarchy for greater conservation gain;

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an overview of experiences in implementation; • Introduce the mechanism for neutrality and the response hierarchy for Land Degradation Neutrality; and • Discuss the mitigation hierarchy from a financing perspective <p>Speakers: Ashton Berry, BirdLife International; Pascal Martinez, GEF; Barron Orr, UNCCD, CSBI (TBC)</p>
14:30–16:00	<p>Nature Based Approaches for Climate Resilient Infrastructure (WWF, GIZ) Building on discussions held at the recent Convention on Biological Diversity COP 14 in Sharm El Sheik, this event will focus on illustrations of how various natural and nature-based features are being employed to build climate resiliency into infrastructure investments. Key questions for discussion will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can maintaining healthy ecosystems – such as forests, wetlands, or coral reefs – provide valuable and cost-effective climate resiliency benefits as a complement or alternative to engineered infrastructure? • What principles are emerging for planning ecologically sustainable and climate resilient engineered infrastructure, including through hybrid approaches incorporating the conservation or rehabilitation of ecosystems? <p>Speakers: Bernd Liss, GIZ; Veronica Lo, CBD; Xianfu Lu, Asian Development Bank; Green Climate Fund, invited; Government of Fiji, invited Moderator: David McCauley, WWF</p>
Saturday 8 December	
Integrated Approaches for Implementation	
14:00 – 16:00	<p>Building on Synergies of the Rio Conventions to Implement Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Change and Sustainable Development (BirdLife, IUCN, CBD, WWF, GEF) At the Rio Conventions Pavilion at CBD COP14 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, participants at the “Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change” thematic day provided a coordinated message for UNFCCC COP24: “Without investing in biodiversity, climate goals cannot be achieved. We have to move from “building in nature” to “building with nature.” This session further explores the theme of ecosystem-based adaptation with a focus on how synergies can be achieved for the climate, biodiversity, and sustainable development agendas by implementing ecosystem-based approaches.</p> <p>Speakers: Ali Raza Rizvi, IUCN; Ashton Berry, BirdLife International; Veronica Lo, CBD; Harisoa Hasina Rakontondrazafy, WWF; Jamison Ervin, UNDP Moderator: Christian Hofer, GEF</p>
16:00 – 17:00	<p>Exploring Nature Futures Scenarios (Wageningen University, GEF) This session will explore the use of scenarios and modelling to explore a range of nature futures, building on the first public workshops demonstrating the IPBES Nature Futures Scenarios at CBD COP14 in Egypt.</p> <p>Speakers: Sylvia Karlsson-Vinkhuyzen, Wageningen University, Member of the IPBES Expert Group on Scenarios and Modelling; GEF representative</p>
17:00 – 17:30	<p>Closing of the Rio Conventions Pavilion Presenting an overview of events at COP24 and main messages for UNCCD COP14 in 2019</p> <p>Speakers: Baron Orr, UNCCD; Gustavo Fonseca, GEF; Veronica Lo, CBD</p>