

Rethinking Nature Conservation for the 21st Century

Monday 29 May 2017, 10:30-12:30
International Environment House II (7-9 ch. de Balexert)

Biographies

Benjamin SIMMONS, Head, Green Growth Knowledge Platform

Benjamin Simmons is the founding head of the Green Growth Knowledge Platform office based in Geneva, Switzerland. Prior to his current role, Benjamin coordinated the establishment and implementation of the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) initiative, a groundbreaking effort involving over 500 experts to draw attention to the global economic benefits of biodiversity and the costs associated with continued biodiversity loss. Benjamin was also Head of the UNEP Trade, Policy and Planning Unit where he managed UNEP's trade and environment program and served as the principal UNEP delegate to the World Trade Organization. Benjamin is the author of numerous articles, papers and book chapters examining the interface between environmental and economic policies. Prior to joining UNEP in 2003, Benjamin worked as an environmental lawyer for a private law firm in New York City and served for two years as a Peace Corps volunteer promoting sustainable agricultural systems in southern Senegal. He holds a Juris Doctorate from Columbia University School of Law and a Master in International Affairs from Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs.

Andrea joined the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) in 2008. Until 2013, she led the process to develop two new international greenhouse gas methodologies, in partnership with the World Resources Institute (WRI). From 2013, Andrea was the Director of the Chemical Sector project, bringing together 11 global chemical companies focused on developing collaborative solutions for the industry to help reach WBCSD's Vision 2050. Since 2014, Andrea also leads the organizations activities on the Circular Economy. This work is focused on developing collaborative initiatives to unlock opportunities and pave the way for a 'new normal' in business practices to reach a circular economy and help achieve the UN SDGs.

Prior to joining the WBCSD, Andrea worked in the federal and provincial governments in Canada, focused on international relations and energy policy.

Mark HALLE, Senior Fellow, International Institute for Sustainable Development

Mark Halle lectures, writes and publishes frequently on issues relating to sustainable development. Mark was previously IISD's European Representative and its Director for Trade and Investment. In this capacity, he supervises a team of some 30 professionals based in Europe and around the world. He began his career in the field of international negotiations, serving in the diplomatic secretariat of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. In that capacity, he was associated with the negotiation of the Barcelona Convention on the Mediterranean Environment, one of the first regional environmental conventions ever adopted.

He then spent five years with UNEP, starting in the Policy Planning Unit and ending up working on the global State of the Environment report published 10 years after UNEP's establishment. From UNEP, he worked with WWF and IUCN in writing the World Conservation Strategy, a document which fundamentally changed the way in which conservation of nature was approached, namely by abandoning the earlier notion that conservation and development were necessarily in opposition to one another and embracing the notion that they are essential components of sustainable development.

Mark then moved to WWF International, serving for three years as conservation assistant to HRH The Prince Phillip (a past president of WWF) and helping to establish and direct the WWF program in China.

He moved to IUCN in 1984 to establish the Conservation for Development Centre, IUCN's first move to involvement with the developing countries. For seven years, he worked in, and directed, this Centre, establishing the foundation for what is now an extensive worldwide IUCN presence. Halle then spent a further three years setting up IUCN's fundraising system, and a final four years establishing its Global Policy and Partnerships program.

Mark was born in the United States and grew up in Switzerland.

Lynda MANSSON, Director General, MAVA

Lynda joined MAVA as Director General in August 2010. She is responsible for implementing the strategy of the foundation and leading the secretariat team. Since joining the foundation, Lynda has overseen a complete reshaping of MAVA including changes at the levels of the board, staff, strategy, processes, project selection, and communications. Lynda is deeply interested in sustainability issues and led the foundation to incorporate a new programme to work on the intersection of economic growth and natural resource depletion. She also ensures the impact of the foundation's investments, and is committed to increasing its level of transparency and accountability.

Before joining the foundation, Lynda spent 13 years with WWF International in Switzerland. She brought with her the experience of managing and directing global strategies for all aspects of office operations in the WWF Network and developing performance tools for its offices. Prior to that, she spent five years in charge of WWF leadership and organisational development.

Lynda began her career as a San Francisco stockbroker and then earned an MBA from the Walter A. Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley. Her two private-life passions are literature and travel. She is American and Swiss and has two grown sons.

Lynda serves on the Board of the Global Footprint Network. She also acts as President of the Board of Partners for a New Economy and the Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust (PONT).

Eva ZABEY, Director, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

Eva leads the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)'s work on natural capital measurement and valuation in business. She is currently leading the WBCSD's consortium that will develop the Natural Capital Protocol on behalf of the Natural Capital Coalition.

Over the past decade at WBCSD, she has led a number of projects, such as the Water Scenarios to 2025 and the Global Water Tool to map companies' water-related risks, as well as the roll-out of the Guide to Corporate Ecosystem Valuation and Eco4Biz to help companies navigate through

existing ecosystem and biodiversity tools. She also led the development of a 2-minute “Pitch for Nature” video with over 25 key organizations in this busy space.

Eva is an ecology specialist having gained a BSc from Imperial College London, and a Masters in environmental management from EPFL, Switzerland. In 2012, she completed a University of London on-line course on environmental valuation techniques, and delivered a TEDx talk in 2012 on valuing nature in business.

Her interest in business was sparked by a WWF biodiversity study she led for a cement company.

Jonathan HUTTON, Director, Luc Hoffman Institute

Jon Hutton is an ecologist bringing 25 years of experience in nature conservation and rural development issues in Africa. His experience includes a major body of work in southern Africa where he took on a range of leadership positions directly linked to nature, natural resources and rural development in government, NGOs and the private sector.

Jon holds a BA from the University of Cambridge in Natural Sciences and a DPhil in Zoology from the University of Zimbabwe. Over his career, he has produced more than 50 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters as well as dozens of reports and conference proceedings on a variety of academic topics. His strong academic interests have also brought him to be elected as a Member of Hughes Hall College, Cambridge in 2005 and Honorary Professor of Sustainable Resource Management at the University of Kent in 2007.

Jon directed the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) - where he has built a distinguished reputation for UNEP’s biodiversity assessment arm – from 2005 to 2016 before joining the Luc Hoffman Institute.

As a partner of WWF, the Institute brings science to action and catalyses new ideas to solve environmental challenges requiring scientific expertise. Jon Hutton leads the Institute in addressing some of the planet’s most difficult environmental challenges. His experience is ideally suited to take on the challenge of bringing world-class scientists together with conservation practitioners, public and private sector managers, and policymakers.