

# : Programme

## **Bonn Symposium 2021** **The Global Biodiversity Framework:** **A Key Building Block for Local Implementation** **of the 2030 Agenda**

**UN Campus Bonn/online via Zoom**

10-11 November 2021

### **Conference languages**

German/English (simultaneous interpretation)

### **Cooperating Partners**

Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW)/Engagement Global gGmbH

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## BACKGROUND

The Global Biodiversity Framework has been available in draft since July 2021 and is due to be adopted at the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kunming, China, in May 2022. In terms of its global significance, the Framework is already being compared to the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change. It aims to stop the dramatic loss of flora, fauna and ecosystems worldwide and preserve biological diversity.

Biological diversity is a key building block for a more sustainable economy and lifestyle and for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is essential for mitigating climate change and for adaptation to its impacts (flood prevention, for example), and is vital for our food security and human health. The success of the Global Biodiversity Framework will depend in part on its implementation at regional and local level; regions, cities and municipalities have a key role to play here.

There are numerous entry points for local governments to make a contribution to preserving biodiversity: they range from protecting regional flora and fauna and adopting local biodiversity strategies to promoting a green economy and raising public awareness of sustainable living. In addition, local decision-makers can feed their ideas into the international political process and participate in conferences within the CBD framework.

The Global Biodiversity Framework should also be viewed as a contribution to future pandemic prevention, since a diverse biosphere is more resilient. In recent decades, 60% of all infectious diseases were zoonotic, meaning that they originated in animals and were then transmitted to humans (Covid-19 and malaria are examples). This is most likely to happen where humans encroach on, and damage, unspoiled ecosystems. An intact and diverse biosphere reduces the occurrence of zoonotic diseases. For that reason, biological diversity should be considered a key priority in economic programmes aimed at overcoming the impacts of the pandemic; the key phrase here is “recover better”.

The Bonn Symposium 2021 aims to identify opportunities offered by the Global Biodiversity Framework at the local level. It will consider why biodiversity is of key importance for the survival of humankind and examine starting points for regions, cities and municipalities to protect biodiversity locally and globally – while improving citizens’ quality of life. Both the UNFCCC secretariat and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) are located in the Federal City of Bonn, making it a particularly suitable venue for this debate.

# : Wednesday, 10 November 2021

09.45 HRS

VIRTUAL CHECK-IN

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10.00 HRS

## SYMPOSIUM CHAIR

**Dr Merjam Wakili**

Freelance Moderator, Bonn, Germany

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10.05 HRS

## WELCOME

**Oliver Krauß MdL**

Chairperson of the Executive Committee  
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn, Germany

**Dr Jens Kreuter**

Managing Director  
Engagement Global gGmbH – Service for Development Initiatives, Bonn, Germany

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10.15 HRS

## BREAKOUT ROOMS

### SHORT ICEBREAKING SESSION

To get to know each other, participants are encouraged to share their ideas (in English or German). What are your expectations of the event? Which aspects are of particular interest?

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10.20 HRS

## KEYNOTE

### FROM SPECIES CONSERVATION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND PANDEMIC PREVENTION: WHY IS THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK SO IMPORTANT?

The Covid-19 pandemic has reinforced the message that the future of humankind is bound up with the fate of wildlife and the planet as a whole. But exactly how are healthy ecosystems and human wellbeing interlinked? What role does biodiversity play in mitigating climate change and natural disasters and safeguarding food security and human health? And how important is the forthcoming Global Biodiversity Framework in this context?

**Professor Josef Settele**

Head of the Department of Conservation Biology & Social-Ecological Systems, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Halle, Germany  
Member of the German Advisory Council on the Environment

Q&A

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10.50 HRS

**DISCUSSION SESSION**

**“IT’S NOT ONLY ABOUT BUTTERFLIES!”**

**THE IMPLICATIONS OF SPECIES EXTINCTION FOR HUMAN HEALTH**

By inflicting massive damage on ecosystems, humankind is destroying its own natural bases of life. These processes can mainly be observed in the Global South, but are often driven by consumer habits in developed countries and are already impacting human health in all regions of the world. Precisely how does the destruction of the biosphere affect human health? Why is protecting biodiversity essential to avoid pandemics and other health risks? And what contribution can and should local stakeholders worldwide make?

**Professor Thomas Hildebrandt**

Head of Department, Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research, Berlin, Germany

**Lucy Mullenkei**

Executive Director, Indigenous Information Network, Nairobi, Kenya

**Basile van Havre**

Co-Chair, Open-Ended Working Group, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Montréal, Canada

Q&A

12.05 HRS

SHORT BREAK

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12.15 HRS

**INTERVIEW: THE FINAL PUSH TOWARDS THE 2021/2022 UN BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT OUTCOMES TO DATE AND LOCAL PERSPECTIVES**

From 11 - 15 October 2021, a launch event for the UN’s Biodiversity Summit (CBD COP 15) is taking place; due to the pandemic, the Summit itself has been postponed until May 2022. Representatives of the local level are also involved in developing the Global Biodiversity Framework. In this interview, participating municipalities and umbrella organisations report on the outcomes to date and outline what local authorities are hoping the Summit will achieve. What role does the local level play in the international process to shape the global biodiversity agenda? What opportunities does the new Framework offer for regions, cities and local communities?

**Kobie Brand**

Deputy Secretary General and Director of the Cities Biodiversity Center  
ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Cape Town, South Africa

**Cheryl Jones Fur**

Deputy Lord Mayor, Växjö, Sweden

Q&A

12.45-13.15 HRS

**INTERACTIVE NETWORKING VIA WONDER.ME**

with participants and speakers

13.15 - 14.00 HRS

LUNCH BREAK

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14.00 HRS

## PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

### 1) MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL – MUNICIPAL SUSTAINABILITY AND BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES

*In German. Moderator: Till Winkelmann, Project Leader, SKEW*

Many local authorities are committed to mainstreaming the conservation of biodiversity as a strategic goal at the local level. Some have developed their own biodiversity strategies for this purpose; others highlight biodiversity goals as part of their local sustainability strategies. In this workshop, local government representatives outline their approach and explain the benefits achieved for their municipality and local residents.

#### **Jörg Lummitsch**

Environmental Department, City of Erfurt, Germany  
Local authority with a biodiversity strategy

#### **Uli Paetzel (tbc)**

Chair, Emschergenossenschaft and Lippeverband (EGLV)

### 2) RAISING AWARENESS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FOR BIODIVERSITY

*In German and English. Moderator: Merjam Wakili*

The Covid-19 pandemic and the natural disasters this summer have clearly demonstrated, yet again, the importance of nature and biological diversity. At the same time, large sections of the population are sceptical about the major changes to lifestyles and consumer habits that are necessary for sustainable protection of the biosphere. How can this scepticism be overcome? What can be done to encourage more people to engage for sustainable species conservation as an objective?

#### **Dr Hans-Martin Kochanek**

Head of Department, City of Leverkusen; Director, NaturGut Ophoven, Germany

#### **Dr Zita Sebesvari**

Deputy Director, Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)  
Head of Section, Environmental Vulnerability and Ecosystem Services (EVES)  
United Nations University, Bonn, Germany

15.30 HRS

## INTERACTIVE NETWORKING VIA WONDER.ME

with participants and speakers

# Launch Event UNRISD'S New Global Network

## How Do We Want To Live Well Together? A New Eco-Social Contract

The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), in partnership with the Green Economy Coalition (GEC), is launching a new Global Research and Action Network. With international actors from the UN, local authorities, civil society and academia, the aim is to explore opportunities and conditions for a new eco-social contract in which the conservation of biodiversity and social and environmental issues play a key role. The launch of the Global Network will be celebrated at the Bonn Symposium.

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**16.00 HRS**

### **WELCOMING REMARKS**

**Melanie Grabow**

Deputy Mayor of the City of Bonn

### **MODERATOR**

**Oliver Greenfield**

Green Economy Coalition

### **SPEAKERS**

**Paul Ladd**

Director of UNRISD

**Kumi Naidoo**

Africans Rising for Justice; former director of Greenpeace and Amnesty International  
Podcast host at „Power, People and Planet“ ([powerpeopleplanet.org](http://powerpeopleplanet.org))

**Maristella Svampa**

Member, Pacto Eco-Social del Sur, Professor at the Universidad Nacional de la Plata,  
Argentina

**Rhoda Boateng**

Programme Coordinator, International Trade Union Confederation

**Elisa Loncón Antileo**

President, Constitutional Convention of Chile

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**18.00 HRS**

### **RECEPTION IN THE OLD TOWN HALL HOSTED BY THE CITY OF BONN**

# : Thursday, 11 November 2021

08.45 HRS

VIRTUAL CHECK-IN

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09.00 HRS

## **WELCOME AND REVIEW**

### **SUMMARY OF PARALLEL WORKSHOPS FROM DAY 1**

**Dr Merjam Wakili**

Freelance Moderator, Bonn, Germany

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09.10 HRS

## **WORDS OF WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR**

**Katja Dörner**

Mayor, City of Bonn, Germany

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09.20 HRS

## **CULTURAL INTERLUDE**

### **ARTISTIC INTERPRETATION OF DAY 1 OF THE SYMPOSIUM**

**Ella Anschein**

Poetry slammer, Celle, Germany

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09.30 HRS

## **INSPIRING STORIES**

### **SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS – LEARNING WHAT IS POSSIBLE**

The Global Biodiversity Framework offers a new set of parameters – as well as supportive arguments – for the protection of biological diversity and ecosystems. There are numerous innovative solutions, particularly at the local level, where progressive municipalities, businesses and initiatives all over the world are leading by example. Five particularly inspiring examples are presented here in five-minute pitches, followed by an opportunity to ask questions.

**John Chome**

Chief Executive Officer, Lilongwe City Council, Lilongwe, Malawi

**Thomas Lehenherr**

Environment Commissioner, Bad Saulgau

State Capital of Biodiversity, Baden-Württemberg, Germany

**Dr Darla Nickel**

Director, Rainwater Agency, Berlin, Germany

**Saul Roux**

Head of Environmental Strategy Implementation, City of Cape Town, South Africa

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10.30 HRS

SHORT BREAK

10.40 HRS

**INTERVIEW: PARTNERSHIP PROJECT**  
**STRONG LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR STRONG ECOSYSTEMS –**  
**PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY IN NORTH AND SOUTH**

Municipal partnerships between the Global North and South are an important vehicle for international knowledge-sharing. In the areas of biodiversity and climate change in particular, local authorities can learn valuable lessons from each other, as many regions in the Global South have been experiencing the more severe impacts of climate change for some time. In Germany, SKEW's Municipal Climate Partnership initiative is a frontrunner here, celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2021. More than 80 partnership projects have been implemented since 2011. What is the local authority experience in carrying out these projects? And what are the potential benefits for municipalities?

**A municipal partnership: Drakenstein-Neumarkt**

Topics: climate change mitigation and adaptation, natural vegetation, renaturalisation of the Drakenstein

**Ralf Mützel**

Director, Sustainability Office, City of Neumarkt, Germany

**Jacqueline Samson**

Executive Director, Department for Planning, Development and Human Settlements, Drakenstein, South Africa

Q&A

11.10 HRS

SHORT BREAK

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11.15 HRS

**DISCUSSION SESSION: THE PRIVATE SECTOR**  
**BUSINESSES AS PARTNERS FOR BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

According to the World Economic Forum (WEF), half of the world's total GDP is dependent on nature and its services. For that reason, business can and should be a strong partner in preserving natural capital (biodiversity). Many companies are already adopting progressive measures in order to curb the dramatic loss of biodiversity. How is the business sector managing this transformation? What are the benefits, and what role does the Global Biodiversity Framework play in this context?

**Professor Volker Mosbrugger**

President, Polytechnic Foundation of Frankfurt am Main, Germany  
Former Director General, Senckenberg Society for Nature Research (SGN)

**Dr Hans-Dietrich Reckhaus**

Transforming Partner and Director of the Reckhaus company and initiator of Insect Respect, Germany

Q&A

12.00 HRS

SHORT BREAK



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12.05 HRS

**POLITICAL OUTLOOK**

**DEALING WITH CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

In addressing the conservation of biological diversity and ecosystems, seemingly irreconcilable conflicts of interest arise: economic growth vs. nature conservation, adequate food production vs. soil conservation, reintroduction of the wolf vs. protection of livestock. Often, these individually justified objectives seem to be mutually exclusive. How can these conflicts be resolved? Indeed, is there scope to achieve several mutually supportive goals simultaneously?

**Professor Karen Pittel**

Director of the ifo Center for Energy, Climate, and Resources, Munich, Germany  
Chair, German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU)

**Mrinalini Rai**

Director, Women4Biodiversity, Chiang Mai, Thailand

**Ina Scharrenbach**

Minister for Regional Identity, Communities and Local Government, Building and Gender Equality, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany

Q&A

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12.55 HRS

**WRAP-UP**

**Dr Michèle Roth**

Executive Director  
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn, Germany

**Dr Till Winkelmann**

Project Leader, Municipalities for Global Sustainability  
Engagement Global gGmbH – Service for Development Initiatives, Bonn, Germany

13.00 HRS

SYMPOSIUM ENDS