



TE PAE **CHRISTCHURCH** CONVENTION CENTRE
13-16 OCTOBER 2025
ŌTAUTAHĪ CHRISTCHURCH NEW ZEALAND

INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT SPEAKERS



ADAPTATION FUND

Innovation Spotlight 1: Currents of Change: From the Pacific to the World

Monday 13th October 1600 - 1745

Eleanor Saunders - Session moderator

Marcus Johannesson, Senior Climate Change Specialist, Adaptation Fund

Saliha Dobardzic, Lead, Programming and Innovation Unit, Adaptation Fund

Mikko Ollikainen, Head of the Adaptation Fund, Adaptation Fund

Bronwyn Hayward, Associate Dean and Professor, University of Canterbury/Te Wānanga o Waitaha

Tagaloa Cooper, Climate Change Resilience Director, SPREP

Lisa Tumahai, CEO, Pokeka Poutini Ngai Tahu Ltd

Rui Lopes, Climate Change Associate, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation

Christian Lohberger, Vice chair, CTCN

Fei Jiao, Senior Program Officer, Traditional Knowledge Division, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Nadège Trocellier, Global Adaptation Programme Manager, UNEP CTCN

Anna Deinhard, Climate Finance Advisor, Pacific Community (SPC)

Allan Taman, Chairman, Santo Sunset Environment Network (SSEN)

Carlos Quispe Dávila, Project Leader, DAR NGO (Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales)

Dr Md Khalid Hossain, Research Fellow, Digital Transformation and Information Empowerment of Communities, Faculty of IT, Monash University, Australia

Dr Peter Edwards, Senior Researcher, Manaaki Whenua Group, Bioeconomy Science Institute

Innovation Spotlight 2: Cityscapes and Seascapes: Blueprints for Resilient Living

Tuesday 14th October 0800 – 1000

Eleanor Saunders - Session moderator

Saliha Dobardzic, Lead, Programming and Innovation Unit, Adaptation Fund

Marcus Johannesson, Senior Climate Change Specialist, Adaptation Fund

Kevin Horsburgh, GCF

Associate Professor Cathy Oke, Director Melbourne Centre for Cities, University of Melbourne

Dr. Arjan De Haan, Climate Specialist, Canada's International Development Research Centre

Dr. Adrian Healy, UKRI Future Leaders Fellow, Cardiff University

Pedro Henrique Campello Torres, PhD, Professor, UNESP (São Paulo State University)

Bruce Christopher Glavovic, Professor, Massey University (New Zealand)

Mahendra Gooroochurn, Associate Professor (Dr), University of Mauritius

Patrick Curran, PhD Candidate, University of Canterbury

Laurence Delina, Associate Professor of Environment and Sustainability, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Dr. Franziska Stefanie Hanf, Senior Researcher, University of Hamburg

Dr. Jon Hathaway, Professor, University of Tennessee

Akanksha Sharma, Head of ClimateTech and Digital Utilities, GSMA

Benjamin Jance IV, Director, Climate Action Innovation, Research and Impact, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM)

Samia Khan, Innovate4Cities Advisor, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM)

Sandra Lee Morrison, Professor, Faculty of Māori & Indigenous Studies, University of Waikato, Hamilton

Innovation Spotlight 3: Culture for Innovation: Adapting with Warm Data

Tuesday 14th October 1545 – 1715

Eleanor Saunders - Session moderator

Marcus Johannesson, Senior Climate Change Specialist, Adaptation Fund

Saliha Dobardzic, Lead, Programming and Innovation Unit, Adaptation Fund

Eli S. Romero, Climate Finance Manager, Protected Areas Conservation Trust - Belize

Dr Sarah Connors, Climate Applications Scientist, European Space Agency (ESA)

Vladislav Arnaoudov AF-TERG Secretariat Coordinator & Senior Evaluation Officer, Adaptation Fund

Sadie McEvoy, PhD, Senior Researcher Climate Adaptation Planning, Deltares

Prof Gina Ziervogel, Director, African Climate and Development Initiative, University of Cape Town

Katisha Paul, BCAFN

Janna Wale, BCAFN

Dr Vuyisile Precious Moyo, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, African Climate and Development Initiative, University of Cape Town

Geoff Wood, Head of Department, Health and Life Skills, Rosmini College / TOTCUS

Marlow Winder, High School Student, Rosmini College / TOTCUS

Carter Oosterdijk, Year 10 Student, Rosmini College / TOTCUS

Paul Zaanen, Growth and Development Manager, Buller District Council

Zabeel Scanlon, High School Student,

Toroa Charteris, High School Student/ Youth Voice Kawatiri Council Co-Chair,

Mariski Nirwan, Senior Manager Coastal Resilience, Yayasan Konservasi Alam Nusantara

I Gusti Ngurah Paulus Widya, Coastal Resilience Specialist, Yayasan Konservasi Alam Nusantara

Helen Kerr, Principal, Isthmus Group

Innovation Spotlight 4: Regeneration for Resilience: Designing with Nature

Wednesday 15th October 1045 – 1215

Eleanor Saunders - Session moderator

Saliha Dobardzic, Lead, Programming and Innovation Unit, Adaptation Fund
Marcus Johannesson, Senior Climate Change Specialist, Adaptation Fund
Dr Suli Vunibola, Senior Lecturer in Environmental Management, Lincoln University
Slade Ririmae, Food Systems Pathways Coordinator, WWF-Solomon Islands
Salome Topo, Food Systems Pathways Coordinator, WWF-Solomon Islands
Desmond Warugutaia, Knowledge broker, Ijo Maringi Association, Solomon Islands
Julian Otajama, Knowledge broker, Ijo Maringi Association, Solomon Islands
Teera Eriuta, Food Systems Pathways Coordinator, Live and Learn Environmental Education, Kiribati
Tearine Barnabas, Food Systems Pathways Coordinator, Live and Learn Environmental Education, Kiribati
Molly Hunter, Food Systems Pathways Coordinator, Live and Learn Environmental Education, Australia
Dr. James Butler, Transdisciplinary Science Group Manager, Cawthron Institute, New Zealand
Alaric McCarthy, Social-ecological systems scientist, Cawthron Institute, New Zealand
Huhana Smith, Professor, Toirauwharangi/College of Creative Arts, Massey University, Wellington
Abena Ofosu, Senior Research Officer – Innovation Scaling, International Water Management Institute
Shalander Kumar, Global Theme Leader- Socioeconomics, Inclusion and Impacts, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
Janet Stephenson, Centre for Sustainability Research, University of Otago, Research Professor
Maitreyi Koduganti Venkata, Research Associate - Indian Institute for Human Settlements, India/
Doctoral Researcher - University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, United States, University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign (US)/Indian Institute for Human Settlements (India)
Garth Simon, Monitoring and Evaluation Associate & Project Technical Officer, Department of Environment, Antigua and Barbuda
Dr Pia Treichel, Associate, Climate Finance, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
Peter Zetterli, Climate Lead, CGAP
Monica Borrero, Global Programme Manager, UNDP - Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA)
Milena Niehaus, Associate Programme Officer, International Trade Centre
Houssam Chahine, Chief of Climate Financing Hub, UNHCR
Knowledge Keeper Harvey McLeod, , BCAFN
Chief Darrell Bob, , BCAFN
Vilimaina Naqeleuvuki, Learning Coordinator, Shifting the Power Coalition
Vanessa Heleta, Executive Director, Talitha Project Tonga
Kieu Gavin, Pacific Programme Manager, ActionAid Australia
Laura Whitford, Global Adaptation Finance and Partnership Lead, The Nature Conservancy
Lulu Zhou, Asia Pacific Director of Strategic Partnerships for Climate Resilience, The Nature Conservancy
Rachel Hall, Nature Based Solutions Project Coordinator, New Zealand, The Nature Conservancy
Olya Albot, Nature Based Solutions Project Manager, New Zealand, The Nature Conservancy

Innovation Spotlight 5: The Next Wave: Building Momentum

Wednesday 15th October 1345 – 1515

Miriama Kamo - Session moderator, ABC

Dr Peter Edwards, Senior Researcher, Manaaki Whenua Group, Bioeconomy Science Institute
Zabeel Scanlon , High School Student ,
Toroa Charteris, High School Student/ Youth Voice Kawatiri Council Co-Chair,
Mariski Nirwan, Senior Manager Coastal Resilience, Yayasan Konservasi Alam Nusantara
I Gusti Ngurah Paulus Widya, Coastal Resilience Specialist, Yayasan Konservasi Alam Nusantara
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Rachel Hall, Nature Based Solutions Project Coordinator, New Zealand, The Nature Conservancy
Olya Albot, Nature Based Solutions Project Manager, New Zealand, The Nature Conservancy
Sandra Lee Morrison, Professor, Faculty of Māori & Indigenous Studies, University of Waikato, Hamilton
Rajesh Tandon, Chair for Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education, UNESCO
Vilimaina Naelevuki, Learning Coordinator, Shifting the Power Coalition
Vanessa Heleta, Executive Director, Talitha Project Tonga
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Molly Hunter, Food Systems Pathways Coordinator, Live and Learn Environmental Education, Australia
Dr. James Butler, Transdisciplinary Science Group Manager, Cawthron Institute, New Zealand
Alaric McCarthy, Social-ecological systems scientist, Cawthron Institute, New Zealand
Ms. 'Ofa Ma'asi-Kaisamy, Manager, Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC)
Dr Andrea Grant, Social Scientist, Risk and Resilience, Scion Group, Bioeconomy Science Institute
Dr Nooshin Torabi, Lecturer and Program Manager, RMIT University
Susannah Fisher, Principal Research Fellow, University College London
Jesper Hornberg, CEO, Global Resilience Partnership
Dr. Gwen Point, , BCAFN Knowledge Keeper
Lisa Tumahai, CEO, Pokeka Poutini Ngai Tahu Ltd
Saliha Dobardzic, Lead, Programming and Innovation Unit, Adaptation Fund
Marcus Johannesson, Senior Climate Change Specialist, Adaptation Fund
Eleanor Saunders