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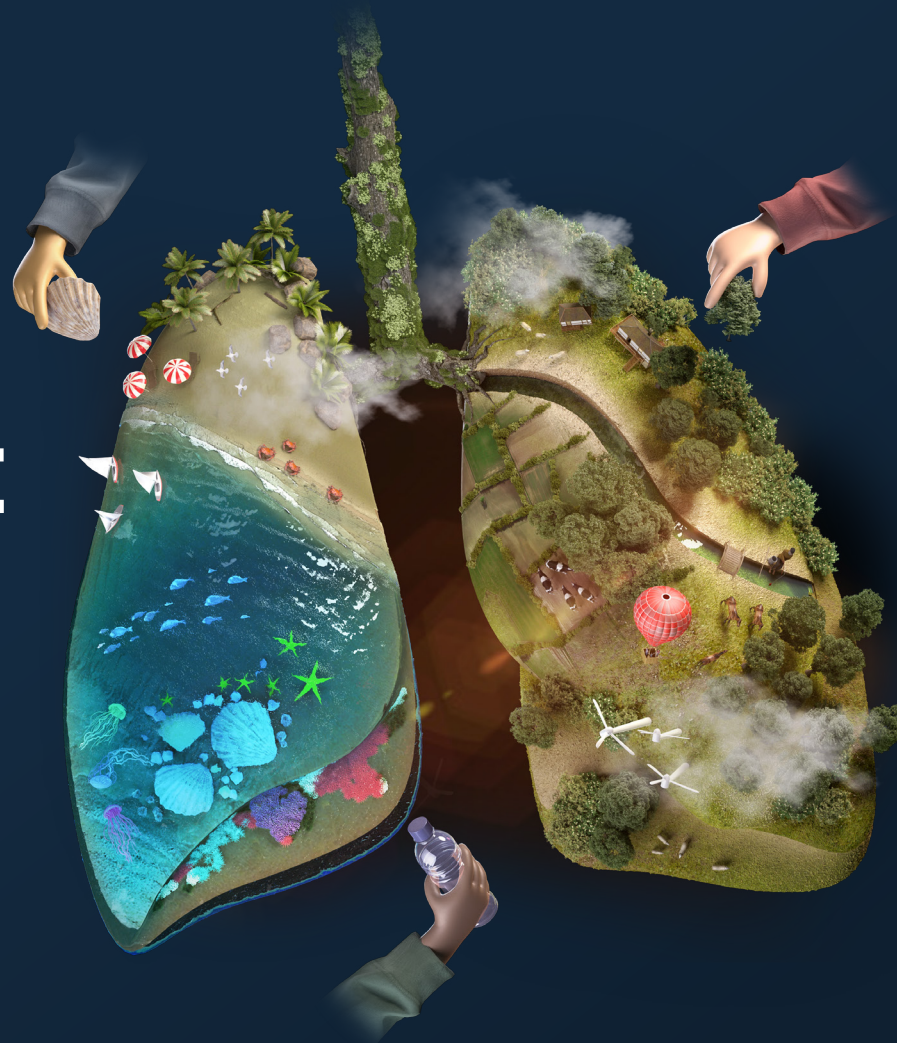
Member of the SNC-Lavalin Group


CREATING THRIVING PLACES FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE

PLANET HEALTH – OUR PLANET HAS TWO LUNGS,
ONE BLUE, ONE GREEN; WHAT LEGACY DO WE WISH
CHILDREN OF TODAY TO INHERIT TOMORROW?

'Our economies, livelihoods, and well-being all
depend on our most precious asset: Nature.
We are part of Nature, not separate from it.'

Sir Partha Dasgupta





"To inspire people, it is necessary to create conditions for such inspiration. It is like a seed that can only sprout if it has the right conditions. And some of these important conditions for sprouting inspiration is participation, actions that really connect deeply with the souls of the people, something that creates vibration in people, not on a rational level but in a deeper level."

Frank Ohlenschlaeger
CEO La Almindrehesa



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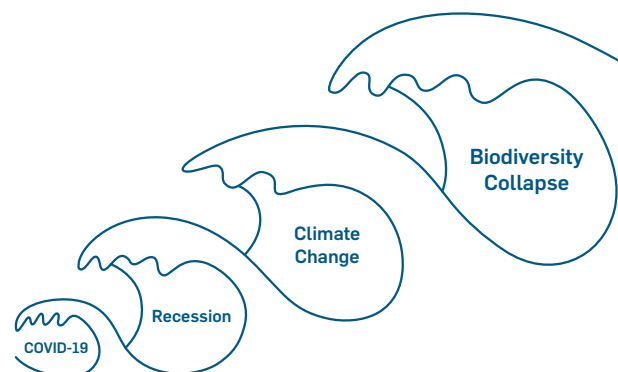
INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this briefing paper. It's been prepared to introduce some of the topics and participants you'll encounter at the upcoming Windsor event – Creating thriving places for people and nature.

The event is the brainchild of an adventurer, a geologist and an architect – Andy Middleton, Geoff Carss and myself. Some might say that three people working in such disparate areas of life would have little in common, but from the soil under our feet, to the water we drink and the air we breathe, we share concerns about the future for our children and grandchildren. We also firmly believe that we, and millions of others on the planet, can take the right steps to secure a better future.

Urgent action must be taken, and it's only through events such as ours, bringing together diverse groups of people, that it will be possible to create radical, pioneering, smart, joined-up solutions.

For the Windsor event, we have purposefully sought out innovators in social and green prescribing, experienced educators working in and with nature with some of our most vulnerable and marginalised people, pioneering nature and environmental experts and scientists – space, data, and geospatial scientists, landowners, farmers, land guardians, engineers and designers, trusts, funders, financiers, nature conservation and restoration organisations, and many, many more. The concept is that there will be animated debates, the opportunity to see things from fresh perspectives and a profusion of new ideas.



And just as valuable as the discussions in the room, will be the friendships and partnerships formed so that the conversations continue to flow. Our greatest wish is for initiatives and projects to evolve and take on lives of their own.

OUR BROAD MISSION IS AS FOLLOWS:

'To be part of a bold and inclusive nature regeneration solution. Co-creating a solution that improves biodiversity, boosts health, wellbeing, and services to mitigate climate change. A solution that can be scaled, championing immersive and experiential learning, generating new income streams, employment, community engagement and digital innovation. Together we can create a solution where millions of people feel confident in their surroundings and their ability to nudge biodiversity, well-being and climate solutions back into balance.'

The proposition is intersectional, cross-cutting across many of the current grand challenges of today.

OUR PURPOSE IS:

- › To create thriving places for nature and people.
- › To co-create a new blueprint for the UK that may wholly or in part translate globally.

KEY THEMES FOR DEBATE:

- › **Climate adaptation to enhance climate resilience** – nature-based regionally scaled solutions.
- › **Net zero** – nature-based solutions to increase carbon sequestration, clean air, clean water.
- › **Ecological regeneration** to deliver natural capital and biodiversity net gain. Recovering nature is everyone's business.
- › **Education and learning** – generating future fit children with an unshakeable confidence on their role in tackling climate change and ecological degradation.
- › **Health and wellbeing** – amplifying the scientifically proven connect between physical health, mental health and wellbeing and nature health.
- › **Role of infrastructure** to prevent non-communicable disease and amplify nature activation in the built environment.

And finally, we'd like to thank St George's House for enabling and hosting us, and Atkins, member of the SNC Lavalin Group, for its sponsorship and breadth of community expertise.

We look forward to seeing you and hope you enjoy the event.



Zoe Metcalfe
Client Director, Local and Central
Government, Atkins





Mike Jackson
Chief Executive, Bristol City Council

BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS

When planning, creating and evolving thriving communities, it's essential to make sure that no one is left behind says Mike Jackson, Chief Executive Bristol City Council.

Like most other local councils around the country, Bristol City is facing a surge in demand for its services for the most vulnerable. 'Throughout the Covid pandemic, many people have been holding back, not able or wanting to add to the pressures on the council and the NHS, but they can't wait any longer,' says Mike Jackson, Bristol City Council Chief Executive. 'We're seeing a bow-wave of demand, just when the safety net of the government's Covid financial support is being removed.'

Mike's greatest area of concern is social care for the most vulnerable. 'But it's not just a challenge of funding, it's about the shortage of skilled people. The workforce simply does not exist to provide the support to live at home based on the model of care we've got used to.'

However, he's convinced that there's a solution. 'There are large numbers of friends, neighbours and volunteers who want to help, but our current version of home care doesn't make it easy for them to become part of the recognised 'support package' that enables people to stay independent and living at home.'

He explains that care packages tend to be rigid and inflexible. 'Following an assessment, it might be the case that someone needs three or four visits a day. While many volunteers have the best intentions and want to help, they often cannot commit to set times every week, so more flexible approaches and nimble systems would help.'

He'd like to see changes in the care model. 'Community-based support is going to be vital in the coming few years and volunteers can play a critical role. By calling in and perhaps taking someone for a walk, or sharing a meal, they will be ensuring that vulnerable people can stay in their own homes, feel less isolated and be better connected to others in the community, bringing big benefits to general wellbeing and strengthening communities.'

But to reach this goal, more flexibility and experimentation is required. 'Perhaps we need greater discretion in how some statutory responsibilities are discharged. As an example, if volunteers could access visiting rosters, they could book visiting times to fit their schedules.'

In terms of the Windsor event, Mike is hoping for radical new ideas. 'It would be fascinating to harvest ideas about bringing down the barriers to more volunteer support. And a positive outcome would be suggestions for better blending community initiatives with more formal care to make sure that communities are places where even the most vulnerable people can live at home and thrive.'

CHANGE, HOPE AND INSPIRATION

For Tim Christophersen, Head of the Nature for Climate Branch in the Ecosystems Division of the United Nations Environment Programme inspirational capital should be as important as financial capital.

At the end of last year at COP26 came the announcement that the value of the global voluntary carbon market had topped \$1 billion in 2021. This was according to information and analysis group Ecosystem Marketplace.

'Carbon market growth is extremely volatile and growing fast,' says Tim Christophersen of the UN's Environment Programme. 'It could even reach a predicted \$30-50bn by 2030. It's become a valuable commodity and growth can largely be attributed to big investors offsetting emissions by planting trees, and this needs strong safeguards.'

While Tim supports investment in nature, he believes a mindshift is required, particularly by governments and large organisations, in how this is done. 'Since the 1990s, the world has made enormous gains in health and longevity as well as in financial capital, but at the same time we have lost 40 per cent of our natural capital in terms of forests, clean water and species. We are overdrawn on that account. It's time to send in the bailiffs.'

To restore the losses, Tim advocates action at pace and scale. 'At the moment even large restoration projects such as forests rely on small groups of NGOs to work hard to make a positive impact. However, we need to scale this up fast and with integrity, and focus on combining high-quality environmental and social investment. It's exciting to see how this can be achieved through large commercial firms getting involved. As part of the changing role of the engineer, we could see much faster progress not just for habitat restoration but for towns and cities too.'

Key discussions Tim would like to hear at Windsor would be around changing the business mindset and the business perception of nature. 'The event embodies the UN's principles about bringing debates on nature and sustainable business models to a broader audience. We all rely on nature, so how do we all care for it and take account of it in everything we do?'

For Tim, a key outcome from the event will be inspiration. 'Because we need big change, we need hope and inspiration, call it inspirational capital. One of our partners in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, the group Commonland, has integrated inspiration as part of the investor business case for restoration, along with social capital, natural capital and financial capital'.



Tim Christophersen

Head of the Nature for Climate Branch in the Ecosystems Division of the United Nations Environment Programme





BRING BACK NATURE
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THE POWER OF FALLING IN LOVE WITH NATURE

Adventurer, educator, event co-creator
Andy Middleton says that a love of nature and changing mindsets and behaviour will equip people with the confidence in their ability to make a positive difference.

Andy Middleton is an optimist. 'The highest impact responses to the combined existential challenges of climate and nature emergencies have never been tested or deployed, but if we work together in very different ways towards shared goals, I'm convinced we can deliver the actions that future generations deserve.' He's also a pragmatist. 'No single organisation can fix the scale of problems around us, and new ways of managing risk are needed, but as we have seen in the responses to the Covid pandemic, trust, collaboration and knowledge-sharing across sectors can shift mindsets and deliver amazing outcomes quickly. We need do the same again, at much bigger scale.'

Through his work as a founder and Chief Exploration Officer with sustainable adventure and experiential learning specialist TYF, he has seen how time spent close to nature and wild places reconnects people to each other and the environment, underpinning insights that re-balance wellbeing.

'This a change we need at population scale - when people see themselves as part of nature, they are far more likely to make changes to their behaviour that are congruent with living within our means.'

Andy is certain that while unshakeable confidence to solve the challenges ahead is vital for every citizen, the desire to build it is missing from policy and strategy across society. 'The leaders and thinkers coming together at St George's House bring invaluable perspectives and experiences; creating the space for them to fully embrace the scale and speed of response and let their imaginations match their ambition will generate solutions and ideas that raise our collective spirits'.

The discussions he's most looking forward to are around bold ambition and radical collaboration: 'There's nothing different about having smart and experienced people around a table, but by asking questions that have never been asked before, we can break new ground in, and reframe, the boundaries of what we imagine and know to be possible.'

And the best outcomes? 'We need to walk away committed to actions that are practical and impactful. Building a shared plan to give 10% of the population the skills and confidence to step up to the mark with climate and nature action would be a start point for change rarely been imagined and never delivered. It would help entire communities, cities and regions completely change their game.'



Andy Middleton
Founder and Chief Exploration Office TYF

TIME FOR ACTION

For some time now, environmental specialists have been involved in critical discussions understanding the crises facing our land, air and water. Now it's time to broaden the debate and address the urgent need for acting at scale and speed say Atkins' experts, ecologists Claire Wansbury and Dr Kate Vincent, along with town planner Kamil Rog.

WHY DO YOU THINK THE CREATING THRIVING PLACES FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE EVENT IS IMPORTANT?

CW: The great strength of the event will be in bringing together people from a broad range of diverse backgrounds – from areas such as finance, healthcare, charities and government to large corporations, academia, farming and utility companies. Until now, discussions around topics like climate change, biodiversity and wellbeing have usually taken place in silos, but by broadening out and involving people across different sectors, there will be the opportunity to see things from different perspectives and share ideas.

KV: Diversity of thought is going to be critical in making progress together. In addition, people need a point of engagement, they need to connect at events like this and for many there is an urgency to make progress and get things done, particularly after COP26.

KR: Having these conversations with people beyond our typical networks enables a more joined-up approach, by seeing the bigger picture you realise everyone is working towards the same goals. Additionally, biodiversity net gain will become a part of standard development practice within the next two years, so it is important to look beyond that at what's next.

WHAT DISCUSSIONS WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO TAKE PLACE?

CW: It would be a great step forward to get rid of the jargon – when we talk about biodiversity we are really talking about nature. Using familiar words like nature and wildlife will help foster a broader understanding of what the challenges are and how they can be addressed. It would also be helpful to think of nature as more than just a 'leisure' service. Following on from that, we know from our own experience that being engaged with nature is good for us, so it would be great to discuss what sort of partnerships we can forge to throw up new ideas and approaches to improve people's health and keep them well to reduce the strain on the National Health Service.

KV: We need more joined-up thinking, so a discussion would be useful on how best to communicate the fact that actions have consequences. From what we eat to the pensions we choose there will be positive and negative impacts on nature.

KR: I'd be interested in a finding solutions that provide mutual benefits for both climate change and biodiversity. We have to address both crises together rather than putting off biodiversity until we've figured out net zero.

WHAT WOULD BE AMONG THE BEST OUTCOMES OF THE EVENT?

CW: We must move from talking to doing. And a hot topic is how to act at scale. We are two years into the UN's Decade of Ecosystem Restoration and very little has happened. As Greta Thunberg says 'no more blah blah blah.' We're on the road now, enough of the strategies, let's do stuff and make sure it's the right stuff.

KV: We need to change the status quo and the Windsor event will enable us to disrupt the status quo in a positive way. The power of positive disruption is so important and we have an opportunity with this event to do that.

KR: There is an opportunity to help organisations at all scales and capabilities invest in taking steps in the right direction. Opportunities for working with nature can be represented as 'climbing a ladder of possibilities' that starts with simple activities such as tree planting, then moving up to habitat restoration, and on to developing ecosystem services at the top.



Claire Wansbury

Associate Director, Ecology: Infrastructure, Atkins, a member of SNC-Lavalin Group



Kate Vincent

Associate Director, Atkins, a member of SNC-Lavalin Group



Kamil Rog

Town Planner, Atkins, a member of SNC-Lavalin Group



RE-IMAGINING FLOOD MITIGATION THROUGH
NATURE-BASED WATER CATCHMENT





VALUE, LEGACY AND CREATING BETTER OUTCOMES

**Think of nature as an asset
says Mike McNicholas, Managing
Director, Infrastructure, Atkins,
a member of SNC-Lavalin Group.**

When it comes to creating better outcomes, environment is key, even when it comes to meetings, according to Atkins' infrastructure Managing Director Mike McNicholas.

'One of the best board meetings we've ever held was three or four years ago,' he explains. 'It was a warm, sunny day, so we decided to shift to a café in the park. We sat there for hours enjoying being outside, eating lunch and having lively discussions. It was an extremely productive meeting. Even in this small way, changing the environment changed the result.'

Applying a similar focus on environment in infrastructure projects, Mike believes that nature and health must be prioritised in planning discussions. 'Getting stakeholders engaged early in any infrastructure project where nature and health are included in the debate makes for a better start and more sustainable outcomes. And stakeholders include not just clients and users, but everyone impacted too. The ultimate is to deliver a biodiversity gain because it creates better outcomes and health.'

It's part of a major change in the approach and delivery of infrastructure projects. 'A generation ago, projects were created on the "predict and provide" model, and key considerations were about cost, rate of return and making things last longer,' says Mike. 'We're now talking about different sorts of value, such as social value and biodiversity net gain, and where the best value is in the combination of health, wellbeing and sustainability.'

Incorporating these values, the goldmark standard for a large-scale regeneration project that has created a thriving place is the London Olympic Park where Mike was project director for Atkins' work. 'From the start we were concerned about the legacy of the park and how to use the sporting event as a catalyst for the development that followed. A decade on, it has become the place we'd all hoped for, and it even delivered the extra bonus of boosting national pride.'

One discussion he'd like to hear at the event is around how to promote nature as an asset. 'Health and wellbeing have risen up the agenda for us all as a result of the Covid pandemic. Many people found a new love of being outside whether they were walking or gardening or swimming. The growing interest in a more healthy and balanced lifestyle is not going away. Investors want that shift too, delivering projects with long-lasting outcomes where social gain is just as important as economic gain.'



Mike McNicholas

Managing Director, Infrastructure,
Atkins, a member of SNC-Lavalin Group



SMALL ACTIONS LEAD TO BIG CHANGE

Finding ways to change behaviours can unlock impressive positive benefits says Tessa Clarke Co-Founder & CEO of OLIO, the food sharing app.

The numbers say it all. The United Nations estimates that a third of all food produced globally ends up in the bin, with the average UK family throwing away £700 worth of food each year which adds up to an annual total of £14 billion wasted; and 25% of the world's fresh water supply is used to grow food that is never eaten.

'Too many people don't think about throwing food away, but as soon as you talk about it, they realise what they've done and feel bad,' says Tessa Clarke. Preventing the waste of perfectly good food is what drove her to set up the sharing app

OLIO in 2015 with friend Saasha Celestial-One. OLIO connects neighbours with each other and with local businesses so surplus food can be given away, not thrown away. This could be food nearing its sell-by date in local stores, spare home-grown vegetables or food that's not going to be eaten from the fridge or cupboards. It now has more than five million users, has saved more than six billion litres of water and clocked up more than 40 million portions of food shared in more than 60 countries.

'In getting people to do the right thing, the challenge has always been to drive behaviour change,' says Tessa. 'The app is easy and fun to use; once people have tried it the upfront barriers disappear and they feel great about doing something positive.'

OLIO's outstanding performance challenges traditional ideas of success and value. The business model relies on mobilising a volunteer community to minimise food waste, while at the same time tackling loneliness and strengthening community networks – qualities that came into their own during the depth of the Covid pandemic.

'Local authorities should be partnering with OLIO because in doing so they will save time and money in refuse collections, plus OLIO helps build social cohesion and resilient communities too.'

For the Windsor event, Tessa is interested in discussions around empowering everyday people. 'It would be great to get people's views on the role of individuals and communities in driving systems change.' And there are broader debates to be had too. 'We have got to reinvent capitalism, the fixation with GDP is taking us over a cliff edge, so I'd love to hear ideas about new models around wellness of people and planet. And new economic models too, based on an approach to resources that focus on reduce, reuse and repair.'

And in terms of outcomes? 'A lot of time has been spent talking, but now we need actions, including capital and innovative new partnerships.'



Tessa Clarke
Co-Founder & CEO of OLIO

CREATING SPACE FOR SERENDIPITY

With his experience as a geologist, software developer, management consultant and co-founder of Ethos Wilder, Geoff Carss knows the value of seeing issues from different perspectives. And as co-creator of this event with its impressively diverse range of participants, he's anticipating an explosion of innovation.

WHY DO YOU THINK THE CREATING THRIVING PLACES FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE EVENT IS IMPORTANT?

'It will be a vehicle for passionate conversations about what needs to happen at pace. We need to set new high-level aspirations and introduce system-level change to help nature recover from the damage that's been caused over generations. On our own doorstep, the UK has one of the most degraded natural environments in Europe, and we urgently need action. The event will help in the all-important task of building broader networks of people, stimulating conversations and driving serendipity faster to produce inspiring new ideas and then deliver them.'

WHAT DISCUSSIONS WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO TAKE PLACE?

'There will be so many brilliant discussions and this will be just the start of many more. One area I'm particularly interested to hear explored is how financial institutions, such as pension funds and venture capitalists, can find more ways of having a positive impact. It's an area that's already being discussed, for example by adding investment clauses which specify a return on biodiversity. Can we get financial products that give a return on biodiversity, such as an increase in the number of beavers, rhinos, or whatever is appropriate to the habitat, as well as a financial return?

We need to move to a position where private-sector funding can support at scale, but the underlying supply chain isn't there yet.

Our supply chain for nature-based recovery needs to be significantly expanded. For example, the government is talking about planting millions of trees every year, but the seedlings may need to be imported because we don't have enough growing capacity here. Another area for debate is how to measure which projects and interventions are working or have unintended consequences. Can we use sensor technology to record and quantify changes to biodiversity? How important is data and evidence to investors and land managers?'



WHAT WOULD BE AMONG THE BEST OUTCOMES OF THE EVENT?

The dream outcome would be agreement on a portfolio of well-structured initiatives, each with a leader and contributing team. They'll be able to develop a life of their own and hopefully gain momentum. Continuing and expanding these conversations will also be a win.'



Geoff Carss
Co-founder of Ethos Wilder

NATURE NEEDS TO BE AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING

GP, associate dean, NHS clinical entrepreneur, mother, sister, friend, wife, ally, Acumen Fellow (2021), advisory board member, Dr Lucy Loveday says there is a moral urgency to prioritise nature in all aspects of our lives.

Dr Lucy Loveday is in no doubt about the positive impacts of nature. 'While we universally and innately know that nature is good for us, encouragingly there now exists a growing body of evidence that supports the value that nature experience has, to benefit our mental health and wellbeing.'

Lucy has led several key pioneering projects over the past few years and her portfolio of work is varied and far reaching, ranging from being an advisory board member for the cross-government Preventing and Tackling Mental Ill Health through Green Social Prescribing Project to being one of England's first ever outdoor swimming ambassadors for Swim England.

Ongoing projects include her current role as Health Inequalities Fellow. She is undertaking research by way of listening to marginalised communities including the homeless, and to multiple other stakeholders, to understand more about their experience of, and relationships

with, the natural environment. Also included is the potential role nature can play in mitigating the consequences of health inequalities, with a focus on psychological distress.

'What is coming through strongly as I listen to a multitude of voices, is that we seem to be connected by way of our memories and that safety, space and quiet belonging are themes that appear to be anchored in experiencing connection with places such as forests, mountains, sky or sea. With this new knowledge, we may be able to move forwards by way of co-design to be more strategic in helping more people, particularly those disproportionately affected by mental health problems. And helping the people who work hard to care for and support them, by offering places that represent opportunities for equitable, accessible and quality nature experiences.'

Lucy has been able to demonstrate how this might work via a referral system, embedded within the NHS and through a recent 'green prescribing' pilot project she designed in collaboration with The Woodland Trust. Called '[Resilient Young Minds](#)', it is a pioneering green prescription programme that is delivered outdoors and is very much focused on offering young people from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds the opportunity to connect with the natural world to develop a sense of agency and cultivate a belonging that contributes to thriving communities.

Lucy believes the Windsor event will be important because of the possibilities offered by creating a systems-based approach bringing together the knowledge and experience of people from

many different sectors. 'This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make a difference – together. I am very much looking forwards to the time we will share to begin to make the so-needed transformative change happen.'

Among the topics to be discussed, she's looking forward to hearing other people's views on our relationship with nature. 'First of all, what does it mean to be connected to, and experience, nature for our own wellbeing and what does this really feel like if it were to manifest in our communities? Secondly, it would be fascinating to explore the language we use to describe nature, in the context of health, wellbeing, and community. That's a provocative question perhaps, shifting from a dominance over nature to seeing that we are an inextricable part of nature, and that's the norm.'

And for her, one of the best outcomes of the event? 'To listen, learn and connect with leaders from across different sectors, and to move collectively forwards in action and with a clear and deep sense of shared purpose that will benefit the future generation. Also to explore how we can collaborate and effectively amplify the voice of nature and the voice of people who are voiceless in British society; to create a cultural shift at scale and with momentum, regarding the fundamental role that nature plays, not only for our individual health and wellbeing, but for the ultimate survival of our species.'



Lucy Loveday
GP, Associate Dean, NHS Clinical Entrepreneur, Acumen Fellow (2021)

CULTURE DRIVEN, SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

Manu Maunganidze, set up and runs Nature Youth Connection & Education (NYCE), providing ecological education for marginalised young people in Bristol and is a director of Bristol Green Capital Partnership, focusing on engaging young people and other diverse communities with nature and the environment. He is also education project manager for the Global Goals Centre. Passionate about nature-based education and encouraging a diversity of people to enjoy nature, Manu wants to see more people have greater access to the outdoors.



Having spent his early years in rural Zimbabwe, Manu Maunganidze's move to the UK and Bristol provided a very different perspective of people's relationships with the natural environment. 'I had been a teacher in a private school, then I moved to a state-funded school in Bristol. It dawned on me right away that for people in an economically disadvantaged urban community, there was very limited access to the natural environment and all its benefits, including employment. They had very little say in how land is used and little opportunity to get involved.'

The revelation has informed his life ever since as he works between education, environment, culture and diversity. Manu has engaged with hundreds of children and families to raise awareness of sustainability issues, coordinating events and activities through schools to raise awareness and drive action.

In his work at the Global Goals Centre, Manu is helping people become more involved in discussing the topics that will impact their lives. 'We want to build an immersive space in Bristol to educate communities around the leading issues of our time, framed by the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, including social injustice and the environment.'

For Manu, the importance of staging the Windsor conference lies in the power of connections. 'It has to be a good thing to bring people together who are not normally in the same room, it will promote the cultivation of ideas. These people have the potential for huge influence in determining how natural spaces are used.'

His hopes for discussions at the event focus on fostering greater inclusivity. 'How do we engage urbanised communities in co-producing how we live with nature? They are absent from the debate and are likely to benefit the least from changes that don't include their ideas, so how do we remove the silos and create a portal or entry point – is it dependent on funding? Process? Lobbying? Systemic change? Challenging racism?'

There are two potential outcomes Manu would welcome. 'In my blue-sky thinking, it would be great to come away with some genuine commitments of time and resources to projects that involve mostly urbanised communities along with the rural working class. Secondly, my more immediate thoughts would be that we will have opened the avenues of communication and started to work towards new and radical partnerships.'



Manu Maunganidze
Project Director Nature Youth Connection & Education (NYCE), Education Lead, Global Goals Centre, and Independent Inclusion, Diversity and Equality Facilitator

INVESTING FOR A WORLD WORTH LIVING IN



Faith Ward

Chief Responsible Investment Officer
at Brunel Pension Partnership

When it comes to investing in thriving places, Faith Ward, Chief Responsible Investment Officer at Brunel Pension Partnership, believes it's critical to integrate climate change and biodiversity considerations into investment decision making.

Faith Ward has long been a tireless champion of positive change in the financial industry. She has pioneered new approaches and ground breaking reports, sat on numerous industry bodies and used her skills of motivation and persuasion to make investors think differently. In her role as Chief Responsible Investment Officer at Brunel Pension Partnership she has been outspoken about the financial industry not being 'fit for purpose' when it comes to addressing climate change and has laid down a challenge for organisations to take radical steps. 'The financial industry needs to change systematically if we are realistically going to be able to respond to climate change and the threats to nature. We need to work harder and faster, and, fundamentally, we need to work together.'

Brunel Pension Partnership is one of eight UK Local Government Pension Scheme pools, and brings together more than £35 billion of investments of ten like-minded pension funds: Avon, Buckinghamshire, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, the Environment Agency, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Somerset and Wiltshire. 'By making major commitments on climate change and responsible investment, the partnership aims to help its clients provide not only for its members' retirement, but also for the world they will retire into.'

Faith continues: 'A lot of my work is in persuading my own financial sector peers of the importance of where and how investments are made. There is always caution about doing things differently, but change is happening. Over the past two or three years there has been growing awareness of the value we should place on areas such as biodiversity. And with trillions of dollars of investment opportunities, the sector needs to take this seriously.'

Faith is hoping that discussions at the Windsor event will help provide guidance for investors on the practicalities of what's needed. 'Where to start and what to prioritise? Nature, biodiversity and investing are such complex subjects with so many variables, that one of the chief challenges is to help individuals and organisations identify how to get going. For maximum impact, should the focus be on private market investors in the UK, or global investors? And in which sectors and geographies? It would be helpful to understand the criticality from a scientific perspective as well as financial ones.'

And in terms of outcomes? Societal skills and knowledge are still at low levels when it comes to biodiversity, so one great outcome would be to identify ways of making investment decision makers more aware of the discussions that biologists and conservationists are having. How best to distil that expertise and take it on to the right people? Perhaps consider building modules for continuing professional development? From my personal point of view, I'd like to leave the event armed with more ideas about how to bring about change in my world.'

THE RISE AND RISE OF NATURAL CAPITAL

By recognising the value of nature in creating thriving communities, the approach to funding and financing is changing says Richard Bayley, strategic advisor to Atkins. His work involves leading developments of all scales from small communities to new towns.

'The development world is in transition,' says Richard Bayley, strategic advisor to Atkins, a member of SNC-Lavalin Group. 'Not long ago the primary measurement of success for new communities and property development was an economic one, then behind that came other the considerations of social value, health and wellbeing, natural capital and the environment. Today, following the recent experiences of the pandemic, people are looking for all four of those elements to have equal status.'

This holistic - 'levelling up' - measurement of success is causing the sector to reassess its approach. 'The impact is not just on how lenders provide funding and financing, but also on how developers approach the planning, design, construction and increasingly the long-term management aspects of development and regeneration projects.'

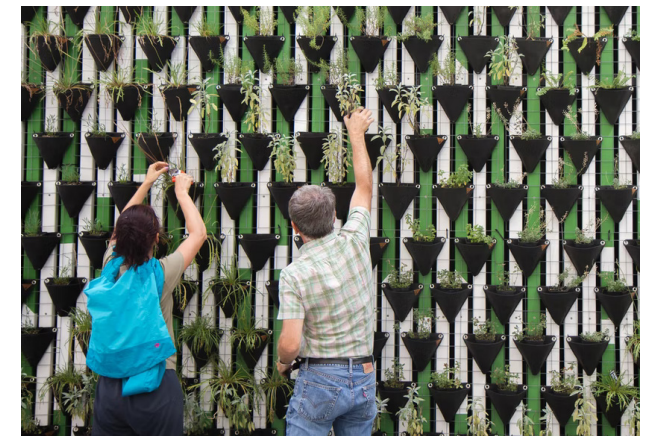
In terms of lending, sustainable finance is becoming the way forward. 'It's about using tools and techniques to incentivise better ways that places get developed. This starts with the landowners, moves on to the developers and through to long-term management of places which touches the entire lifecycle of the project,' says Richard. 'For example, landowners can influence and benefit from higher quality development by retaining a longer-term interest in the land and seeing the uplift in values as the development advances. Natural capital is an increasingly important element of value; historically it's not been directly included in calculations, but increasingly it is going to be an important component of long-term value creation.'

And to secure finance, there are also growing requirements on developers to demonstrate their environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards and credentials. 'In response to interest from their own shareholders, investors and staff, lenders are using tools and techniques to ensure their money is invested sustainably. ESG is getting a lot of traction, driving up standards and becoming a requirement for some pension funds and others. Finance that's cheaper and more readily secured can be made available to those who demonstrate ESG credentials.'

Sustainable finance has a powerful business case says Richard. 'Thriving communities will be happier, healthier places with greater longevity through great stewardship, long-term maintenance planning and that all contributes increasingly to their holistic value.'

For the Windsor event, Richard suggests that discussions around improving collaboration would be helpful. 'How can we bring together people and organisations across the whole range of sectors of all sizes with diverse interests to achieve shared objectives in creating long-term thriving communities?'

He'd also like to hear the views of others on how to fast track innovative technologies. 'What are the step changes needed to make technologies better to help preserve and protect natural capital and the environment, including hydrogen and carbon capture? And what are the innovative practices and vehicles that could be advanced for longer-term management of places to ensure the wealth of the social and natural capital that surrounds us can be protected and preserved?'



Richard Bayley
Strategic Advisor,
Atkins, a member of SNC-Lavalin Group

FEATURE

ABOUT DIGITAL PANGEA

SO, PAUL, WHAT IS PANGEA?

Pangea is our transformational approach to environmental integrated design. It is not just a process, and it is not just a tool – it is a holistic data driven approach enabling environmental integrated design. It combines a data driven approach and digital tools with an agile way of working to deliver consent-able outcomes and sustainable design.

The Pangea approach seeks to adopt proactive environmental engagement in design development, to avoid impacts and reduce effects as early as possible in the process.

The function of Pangea is based on a simple three step approach:

1. **Baseline:** identifying environmental (and social) receptors, their value and risk of impact.
2. **Integrate:** using appropriate triggers and thresholds, as identified from baseline and the mitigation hierarchy to inform design parameters and principles, using relevant data.
3. **Deliver:** providing proportionate earlier clarity and evidence of environmental constraints and opportunities, steering design to minimise environmental and social risk, delivering mitigated and enhanced design solutions.

Hence, it provides a rapid assessment of nature's assets within single or multiple geographic locations, to enable upstream decision to inform the definition of the brief. This highlights opportunities and constraints for nature enhancement and activation to inform feasibility, viability through to concept and planning.

PAUL, WHY HAVE WE CREATED PANGEA?

We want to enable a proactive approach to delivery, providing environmentally integrated design solutions. We recognise the complexities of environmental assessment.

- › Multiple stakeholders often with conflicting or complex requirements.
- › Inefficiencies of gathering, interpreting, and manipulating copious amounts of information between many actors.

To date it has been a manual and document driven approach, where unknown risks coupled with 'best practice' lead to over-precautionary risk averse actions rather than proportionate approach.

Pangea informs design, providing an environmentally integrated direction of development. It drives a holistic change to how we undertake environmental assessment:

- › Produces a common, shared understanding of features affected by developments.
- › Establishes a way of sharing this with design engineers to improve design efficiency.
- › Will be able to share data across a range of stakeholders.

It is informed by planning and policy, therein enabling informed development that is not delayed or compromised downstream by compliance constraints and limits to business case value. Uniquely Pangea is based on a receptor-centric focus driven by the Atkins Spatial Common Data Environment (sCDE): an ISO 19650 aligned auditable data repository of actively managed open and proprietary data. This serves as a golden thread of scientific and credible data to inform the planning, design, and engineering process, and generates creative and innovative solutions, time and cost savings, and risk mitigation.



Paul Morgalla
Principal Scientist,
Atkins, a member of SNC-Lavalin Group



FEATURE

WHY BUILD A FLOOD STORAGE AREA WHEN YOU CAN GET SOMETHING TO BUILD IT FOR YOU?

The Spains Hall Estate has worked in partnership with Atkins, the Environment Agency, Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust, Essex Wildlife Trust to deliver a Natural Flood Management project that will reduce the risk of flooding to the village of Finchingfield.

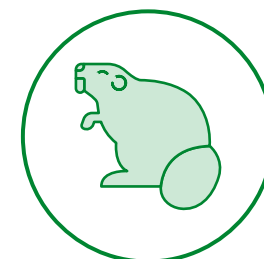
The Natural Capital Account of the current assets and assessment of the ecosystem value after the land management changes, biodiversity net gain quantification and carbon.

Demonstrated that the biodiversity benefits were the most significant recorded with the results providing a key part of the evidence basis for the Estate's successful application to join Natural England's Biodiversity net gain credit pilot. The Approach adopted also has the significant potential to act as an educational springboard to encourage other landowners locally, regionally and beyond to adopt similar ambitious changes to their land management.

'One of the dams created by a single family of beavers on the Spains Hall estate in Essex in just a couple of years. These 'eco-engineers' have the ability to create habitats that protect our communities from flooding, lock up carbon, regulate and clean the water that flows in our rivers and streams.'



David Gasca-Tucker
Principal Hydrologist,
Atkins, a member of SNC-Lavalin Group





TYF ADVENTURE: YOUNG LEADERS

Our Young Leaders, Chris Woodfield and Ellie Ewart, are instrumental in building the knowledge and networks that give TYF's team the confidence and skills to inspire the thousands of customers we meet to take bolder action for climate, nature, and community.

Chris' experience of food waste activism and small business low carbon coaching compliments Ellie's years of teaching and campaigning with Surfers Against Sewage, Trash Free Trails and together, they'll bring fresh voices, and honest, deep challenge to the conversation.

Henry Marriner brings multi-team coordination within the NGO Sector and over years in the Royal Navy leading men and women in the operational environment. Henry was Awarded a Merit of Commendation from People's Provincial Party of Quang Tri Vietnam for services to the local government. Henry is effective leader and project manager in organisations that places environmental responsibility and sustainability at its forefront.

TYF are experiential learning specialists and Founding UK B Corp with a 35-year track record of impact. Two linked missions underpin TYF's work from their home on the west coast of Wales – help people fall so deeply in love with nature that it changes the way they choose to live every day, whilst building an unshakeable confidence to make a positive impact on the challenges that matter.



ETHOS YOUNG LEADERS:

We strongly believe that everyone has the right to meaningful and purposeful work. At Ethos we strive to let young people find this work and discover their unique strengths.

The Ethos Young Leaders, at this event are environmental and social activists who will provide a distinctive perspective on the issues we will be exploring.

Ethos Young Leaders is an Ethos Work venture launched in response to the Covid emergency in 2020. The scheme offers training, development, and workplace opportunities to anyone living anywhere in the UK, aged 16 – 24 and on Universal Credit. This is a youth-led solution operated by a team of partners and mentors from within the Ethos group and supported by the UK government's Kickstart Scheme.

VISIONING - NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS

Town Proposals

Improved road drainage
Increase capacity of Mierre River
Revegetation of River banks
Reduce bank erosion
Provide offline storage areas

Catchment management options

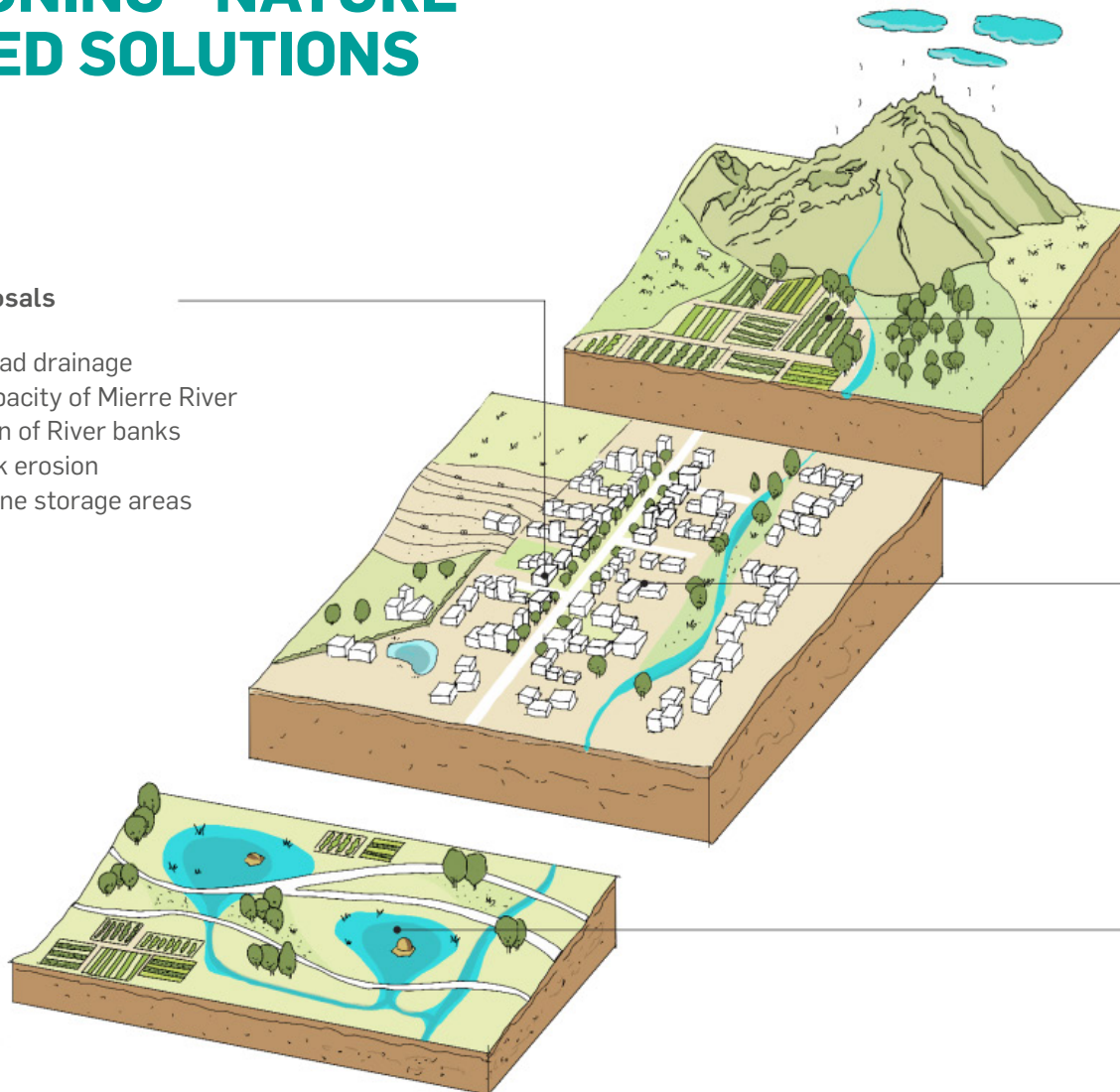
Flood water storage
Tree planting
Increasing soil infiltration

Town Proposals

Attenuation/treatment storage tanks
Buried stormwater storage within
Airport grounds
SuDS

Isiolo Park

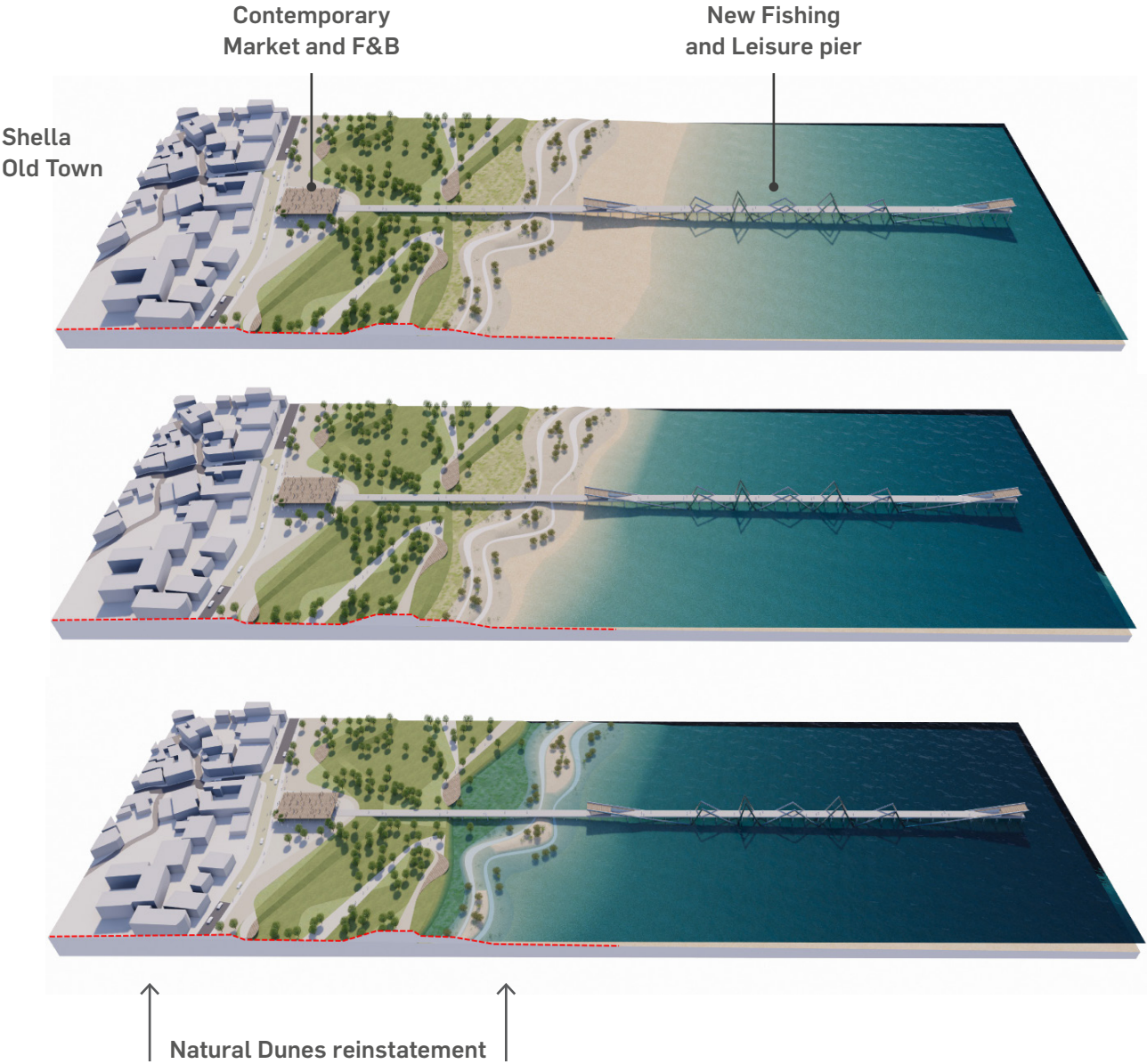
Water storage
Natural treatment (reedbeds)
Potential for re-use of water



ISILOLO, KENYA

MALINDI

Coastal adaptation to sea level rise and storm surges through use of nature based solution – natural sand dune. This proposal will contain the worst case scenario currently forecasted by IPCC.





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**Recommended viewing in
advance of the event:**

[The Economics of Biodiversity:
Sir Partha Dasgupta >](#)

For inspiration: The Champions of the Earth award is the United Nation's highest environmental honour. Champions of the Earth inspire, defend, mobilize and act to tackle the greatest environmental challenges of our time.

[Find out more >](#)

Recommended reading and listening:

[State of Finance for
Nature for the G20 >](#)

[Episode five: John Elkington,
founder and chief pollinator, Volans
by Green Finance Institute >](#)



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