



The Sixth GEF Assembly

June 27-28, 2018, Da Nang, Viet Nam

The Sixth Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) will take place on June 27-28, 2018 in Da Nang, Viet Nam.

Held every four years, the Assembly is the GEF's highest governing body and gathers representatives of all its 183-member countries, implementing agencies, conventions, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples, academia, and business leaders to celebrate past achievements and the launch of its seventh replenishment cycle (GEF-7).

The event is a rare chance to share knowledge, ideas and solutions to some of the world's most pressing environmental issues.

Opening Plenary Sessions

We are at a defining moment for the future of the planet and for human well-being. The ecosystems, biomes and processes that regulate the stability and resilience of the Earth system are being stretched to a breaking point.

To get on the right path to a better, safer future, we need to address the drivers of environmental degradation. We need to transform the systems that support how we live, how we eat, how we move, and how we produce and consume.

Three high-level opening plenary sessions will cover the latest science, the ambition needed to deliver transformation, and how implementation of GEF-7 can contribute to systems change.

High-level Round Tables

Fourteen interactive high-level round tables will dig deeper into new themes in GEF-7 and other global environmental issues. Each round table will feature well-known speakers and interventions from ministers to discuss the challenge, what needs to be done, and how the GEF and others can address the problem. See short descriptions attached.

The high-level round tables will run in parallel to a plenary session, where heads of delegations will deliver their official statements.

For more information visit the GEF Assembly website: <http://assembly.thegef.org>

The GEF Assembly will be preceded by the 54th GEF Council Meeting and a Civil Society Forum.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 27

8:30-10:00

Opening Ceremony

Opening by Naoko Ishii, CEO, GEF
Welcome Address by H.E. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of Viet Nam
Cultural Event and Group Photo

10:00-13:00

Opening Plenary Sessions

13:00-14:30

Lunch for Heads of Delegations (hosted by GEF CEO)

Parallel High-level Round Tables

14:30-17:30

Plenary Statements by Heads of Delegations	RT 1 Food, Land Use and Restoration	RT 2 Sustainable Cities	RT 3 Blue Economy	RT 4 Partnerships Agenda 2030	RT 6 Circular Economy
				RT 5 Science Based Targets for Earth	RT 7 Marine Plastics

19:00

Reception hosted by the Government of Viet Nam

THURSDAY JUNE 28

Parallel High-level Round Tables (Continued)

9:00-12:30

Plenary Statements by Heads of Delegations (Continued)	RT 8 Sustainable Landscapes in the Amazon and Congo Basin	RT 9 Preventing a Toxic Legacy	RT 10 Wildlife	RT 11 Gender and the Environment	RT 13 Conservation Finance
				RT 12 Innovation in Clean Energy	RT 14 Sustainable Drylands

12:30-14:00

Lunch for Heads of Delegations (hosted by the Government of Viet Nam)

14:00-17:00

Closing Plenary Sessions

17:00-18:00

Closing Ceremony

A Defining Moment

OPENING PLENARY SESSIONS

Following statements from political leaders, three high-level plenary sessions will look at the state of the planet, the ambition and action needed to transform key economic systems, and how the GEF can catalyze change that helps safeguard the global environmental commons.

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

H.E. Hilda Heine, President of the Marshall Islands
H.E. Michelle Bachelet, Former President of Chile

PLENARY—MESSAGE FROM SCIENCE

The ecosystems, biomes, and processes that regulate the stability and resilience of the Earth system are being stretched to a breaking point. Our future depends on how well we understand and reverse the deterioration of the global environment.

SPEAKERS

Johan Rockström, Executive Director, Stockholm Resilience Centre
Rosina Bierbaum, Chair, GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel

PLENARY—DELIVERING TRANSFORMATION

To change the trajectory of environmental change, incremental change will not suffice: the challenge is just too great for that. The only solution is a fundamental transformation in key economic systems. We need to better understand the main challenges and what is stopping us from accelerating progress towards necessary tipping points.

SPEAKERS

Paul Polman, CEO, Unilever
Erik Solheim, Executive Director, UN Environment
Takehiko Nakao, President, Asian Development Bank
H.E. Michelle Bachelet, Former President of Chile

MODERATOR

Andrew Steer, President and CEO, WRI

PLENARY—GEF-7 AND SYSTEMS CHANGE

With its unique mandate across multiple Multilateral Environmental Agreements, the GEF is well placed to help catalyze the required transformation. We need to ensure the efforts of GEF's wide network of partners is aligned around the most effective areas for intervention.

SPEAKERS

Sunny Verghese, Co-Founder & Group CEO, Olam Intl.
Suma Chakrabarti, President, EBRD
Achim Steiner, Administrator, UNDP
Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary, CBD

MODERATOR

H.E. José María Figueres, Former President of Costa Rica

LUNCH FOR HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

SPEAKER

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Co-Chair of the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate

CLOSING PLENARY SESSIONS

SUMMARY OF THE HIGH-LEVEL ROUND TABLES

MODERATOR

Jan Piotrowski, Environment Correspondent, The Economist

SPECIAL ADDRESS

H.E. David A. Granger, President of Guyana

PLENARY REPORTS

Report on the Seventh Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund
Report by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office
Report by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel
Statement by a Representative of Civil Society Organizations

■ Wednesday, June 27

■ Thursday, June 28

High-level Round Tables (Overview)

1

Food, Land Use and Restoration (3 hours)

How the world's food system and land use evolve will have major implications for the health of the planet. The world needs a more sustainable food system, one that embeds sustainability from farm to fork, generates agricultural commodities without deforestation and habitat conversion, and restores soils and degraded areas. Interventions at the landscape scale, based on comprehensive land use planning, are necessary to foster a transformational change in food systems and land use. The GEF promotes holistic approaches to help countries reconcile competing social, economic, and environmental objectives of land management. The round table will examine the emerging opportunities for achieving a sustainable food and land use system, and the role that governments and the private sector can play.

Moderator/Host: Jeremy Oppenheim, Partner, SYSTEMIQ

Keynote Speaker(s): Sunny Verghese, Co-Founder and Group CEO, Olam International Ltd
Paul Polman, CEO, Unilever

Invited Speakers: Margarita Astralaga, Director, Environment and Climate Change, IFAD
Steven Collet, Operational Director, Member of Board, IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative
H.E. Kare Chawicha Debessa, State Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ethiopia
Shenggen Fan, Director General, IFPRI
Ajay Jakhar, Chairman, Bharat Krishak Samaj (farmers' organization)
Agnes Kalibata, President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
H.E. Shri C.K. Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India
Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity
Carter Roberts, CEO, WWF-US
Guido Schmidt-Traub, Executive Director, UN SDSN
Maria-Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources, FAO
Ann Tutwiler, Director General, Bioversity International

Ministerial Interventions: H.E. Angelica Maria Mayolo Obregon, Ministry of Env. and Sustainable Development, Colombia

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Sustainable Cities (3 hours)

By 2050, about two-thirds of the global population will be living in cities, mainly in Asia and Africa. If managed well, compact, resilient, inclusive, and resource-efficient cities could become key drivers toward global sustainability. If managed poorly, sprawling urban areas will exacerbate climate change, land degradation, and air and water pollution. City networks, technology providers, businesses, and international financing institutions, have joined forces to help cities harness innovative planning tools, financing opportunities, and best practices for promoting sustainable urban growth. The round table will engage ministers, mayors, private sector leaders, and heads of city networks in discussing how cities can deliver the promise of sustainable urban growth.

Moderator/Host: Mark Watts, Executive Director, C40
Ani Dasgupta, Global Director, WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities

Keynote Speaker(s): Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director, UN Habitat

Invited Speakers: H.E. Bambang Brodjonegoro, Minister of Planning, Indonesia
Suma Chakrabarti, President, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
Rodrigo Corradi, Director of International Relations, Municipality of Porto Alegre
Tomasz Dominik Kotecki Golasinska, Deputy Director General, CONAVI, Mexico
Emani Kumar, Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI, Executive Director, ICLEI South Asia
Milag San Jose- Ballesteros, Regional Director for Southeast Asia and Oceania, C40
Archana Mittal, Director Smart Cities, Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, India
Mariana Daza von Boeck, Secretary of Environmental Affairs, Municipal Gov. of La Paz, Bolivia
Anna Wellenstein, Director, Urban, Rural & Social Development Department World Bank

Ministerial Interventions: Coletha Ruhanya, Director General, Rwanda Environmental Management Authority, Rwanda
H.E. Beatrice Maser Mallor, Ambassador of Switzerland to Viet Nam, Head of Delegation
Aparna Subramani, Exec. Dir., World Bank representing Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Sri Lanka

3

Blue Economy (3 hours)

The ocean is a massive resource for all of us. It covers 70% of the Earth's surface, it feeds 3 billion people who depend on a healthy ocean for their primary source of protein, it absorbs 25% of all CO2 emissions—making it the largest carbon sink on the planet—and it generates an economic value of some \$2.5 trillion each year, which would make the ocean the seventh largest economy in the world. But the ocean is facing tremendous pressures. Nearly 85% of global fish stocks are either over-exploited or fully exploited. Acidification and warming seas are causing irreparable damage, especially to coral reefs. Oceans are straining under increasing pollution, 80% of which is from land based sources. This round table will discuss opportunities and constraints for curbing unsustainable fishing, pollution and habitat loss. The round table will also discuss options for diversifying financing to catalyze sustainable blue economies.

Moderator/Host: Kristian Teleki, Director, Sustainable Ocean Initiative, WRI
Keynote Speaker(s): José María Figueres, Former President of Costa Rica
Peter Thomson, UN Special Envoy for the Ocean
Invited Speakers: Jonathan Barzdo, Deputy Secretary General Ramsar Convention
Rowan Douglas, CEO, Capital, Science & Policy Practice and Chairman, Willis Group
Karin Kemper, Senior Director, World Bank
Jim Leape, Co-Director, Center for Ocean Solutions
Arni Mathiesen, Assistant Director General, Fisheries and Aquaculture, FAO
Justin Mundy, Strategic Advisor, The Prince's Charities' International Sustainability Unit
Carter Roberts, CEO, WWF-US
Andrew Steer, President and CEO, WRI
Ministerial Interventions: Shri. Nikunj K. Sundaray, Joint Secretary (IC&SD) and GEF OFF, India

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Partnerships for Implementing the 2030 Agenda (1.5 hours)

Partnerships, including the private sector, civil society, and global and local thinkers, play a critical role in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. The Multilateral Environmental Agreements for which the GEF serves as financing mechanism have reached major milestones, such as the Paris Agreement on climate change, and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Significant progress has also been achieved in preventing land degradation, controlling chemicals, and protecting oceans. The MEAs recognize that global sustainability issues are indivisible and interlinked, needing coordinated responses from many partners, and across themes and geographical boundaries. To achieve ambitious, global goals, inclusive partnerships that are able to create new knowledge and catalyze action are needed. This round table will review these lessons and focus on how GEF-7 can promote partnerships that support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

Moderator/Host: Guido Schmidt-Traub, Executive Director, UN SDSN
 Keynote Speaker(s): H.E. Bambang Brodjonegoro, Minister of Planning, Indonesia
 Achim Steiner, Administrator, UNDP
 Invited Speakers: Howard Bamsey, Executive Director, Green Climate Fund
 H.R.H. Princess Abze Djigma, Special Envoy of the President of Burkina Faso, Resource Mobilisation for SDG's and Climate Change
 Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity
 Izabella Teixeira, Co-chair, International Resource Panel
 Axel van Trotsenburg, Vice President, Development Finance, World Bank
 Ministerial Interventions: H.E. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Minister of Environment, Costa Rica

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Science Based Targets for Earth (1.5 hours)

The Paris Agreement provides a science-based target for industry, societies, and humanity at large regarding climate change. We lack, however, science-based targets for many other dimensions of the Earth system, which means that we are allowing technological innovations and economic growth to evolve without adequate guidance. The challenge is to assess and quantify biophysical dimensions for a stable Earth system and to formulate them into actionable targets for a multitude of actors, both public and private, for all dimensions of the Earth system, such as biodiversity, land degradation, nitrogen and phosphorous. This round table aims to reinforce the important role of science-based targets as a key tool for maintaining a stable Earth system that actively taps the potential of the private sector.

Moderator/Host: Dominic Waughray, Director of Partnerships, World Economic Forum
Keynote Speaker(s): Johan Röckstrom, Executive Director, Stockholm Resilience Center
Invited Speakers: Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson, GEF
Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity
Cyriaque Sendashonga, Global Director, Policy and Programme, IUCN
Andrew Steer, President and CEO, WRI
Sunny Verghese, Co-Founder & Group CEO of Olam International Ltd

Ministerial Interventions:

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Circular Economy (1.5 hours)

Globally, over 60 billion tons of natural resources are extracted per year, and over 13 billion tons of waste are disposed into landfills, incinerators, and waterways. This linear, take-make-waste process puts enormous strain on the global environment. Tackling this challenge requires moving to a circular economy, which addresses the entire lifecycle of products to ensure that resource efficiency is dramatically improved through better material use and design, that consumer behavior changes, and that recovery and recycling processes become much more efficient. This round table will discuss opportunities and constraints for moving towards a circular economy based on practical examples and knowledge from countries and global platforms like the WEF's Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy

Moderator/Keynote Speaker(s): Dominic Waughray, Director of Partnerships, World Economic Forum

Invited Speakers: Gonzalo Muñoz Abogabir, CEO, TriCilos
Jocelyn Blériot, Executive Officer, Ellen MacArthur Foundation
H.E. Ibrahim Jibril, Minister of Environment, Nigeria
Timo Mäkelä, Senior Advisor, Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra
María Shaw-Barragan, Director, Global Partner Lending Department, European Investment Bank
Steve Yurich, Sr Managing Exec. Officer & Head of Marketing, Mitsubishi Chem. Holdings Corp
Diederik Zeven, Market Leader for Asia Pacific, Royal Philips

Ministerial Interventions: H.E. Shri C.K. Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India

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Marine Plastics (1.5 hours)

At least 8 million tons of plastic end up in our oceans every year, the equivalent of one garbage truck full of plastic dumped into the ocean each minute. Plastic makes up 80% of all marine debris from surface waters to deep-sea sediments and has been detected on shorelines of every continent. Confronting this challenge requires addressing the entire plastic value cycle—material engineering, product and process design, consumer use and behavior, collection systems and recycling. Inspired by a display of the latest sustainable materials and design innovations, this round table will discuss options and approaches for integrating efforts across the entire supply chain to mitigate threats posed by plastics in the ocean, including the need for partnerships between government, the private sector, and financial institutions at local to global scales.

Moderator/Host: Martin Stuchtey, Partner, SYSTEMIQ
 Keynote Speaker(s): Erik Solheim, Executive Director, UN Environment
 Invited Speakers: H.E. Atle Hamar, State Secretary, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway
 Victoria Kwakwa, Regional Vice President, East Asia Pacific, World Bank
 Susan Ruffo, Managing Director, International Initiatives, Ocean Conservancy
 H.E. THI Ta Dinh, Director General, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Viet Nam
 Dini Trisyanti, Founder & Director, Sustainable Waste Indonesia
 Ministerial Interventions: H.E. Safri Burhanuddin, Deputy Minister, Maritime Affairs and Resources, Republic of Indonesia
 Judy Garber, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of State, US

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Sustainable Landscapes in the Amazon and Congo Basin (3 hours)

The Amazon and the Congo Basin, Earth's two largest remaining areas of tropical rainforests, cover 1.1 billion hectares. These ecosystems help regulate local and global climate and are home to countless species as well as forest dependent people with significant traditional knowledge of forests and forest management. In addition to improving the management and financial sustainability of protected areas, strengthening sustainable forest management, and reducing carbon emissions from deforestation, there is an urgent need to tackle drivers of deforestation through engagement with key actors and stakeholders. This round table brings together country representatives and subject-matter experts to share experiences from each region in sustainable forest management and incorporating biodiversity management principles into sectors that are driving deforestation through sectoral agreements and incentives and other financing strategies.

- Moderator/Host:** Valerie Hickey, Practice Manager, World Bank (Amazon session)
Cyriaque Sendashonga, Global Director, IUCN Policy and Programme (Congo session)
- Keynote Speaker(s):** Avecita Chicchón, Program Director, Andes-Amazon, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
Raymond Ndomba Ngoye, Executive Secretary, COMIFAC
- Invited Speakers:** Edmond Dounias, Research Dir., French Ntnl. Research Inst. for Sust.Development (IRD)
Marco Ehrlich, Deputy Director, Instituto Sinchi, Science and Technology, Bogota, Colombia
Rosa Lemos, CEO, FUNBIO
Thomas E. Lovejoy, Senior Fellow, UN Foundation and Professor, George Mason University
Emma Stokes, Director, WCS Central Africa Program
Sanjay Wagle, co-founder and Managing Director, The Lightsmith Group
- Ministerial Interventions:** H.E. Pierre HELE Minister of Environment, (MINEPDED), Cameroon
H.E. Arlette Soudan-Nonault, Ministre de l'Environnement, Republic of Congo
H.E. Jacques Denis Tsanga , Ministre des Eaux et Forêts, Gabon

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Preventing a Toxic Legacy: Transforming the Chemicals Industry (3 hours)

In today's economy, products and materials such as textiles, gold, and electronics are produced in one country and used in many others. In producing countries industries use harmful chemicals in manufacturing and in the extraction of raw materials, while long and usually complicated global supply chains sometimes leave end-user countries with no good options for recycling or disposing of the products. This end-of-pipe management is not sustainable, and solutions that move up supply chains and prevent the need for chemicals and generation of wastes from the outset are starting to be developed. The focus of this round table is to discuss how different stakeholders can come together to support the upstream management of chemicals by addressing supply chains rather than taking an end-of-life approach to sound chemicals management.

Moderator/Host: Izabella Teixeira, Co-chair, International Resource Panel
Keynote Speaker(s): Lida Tan, VP Global Business Development, ESD China Ltd.
Invited Speakers: Virginie Bahon, Head of Communications, Valcambi Suisse
Jacob Duer, Principal Coordinator, SAICM Secretariat
Yutaka Ichihashi, Managing Director, Nomura Kohsan, Co., LTD
Mitch Krauss, Sustainable Production Manager, Burton Snowboards
LI Yong, Director General, UNIDO
Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary, BRS Conventions
Johanna Lissinger Peitz, Senior Adviser, Chief Negotiator UNFCCC, Sweden
H.E. Gale Rigobert, Minister of Edu., Innovation, Gender Relations and Sust. Development, St. Lucia
H.E. Gertrud Sahler, Director General, Federal ministry for the Environment, Germany
Rossana Silva-Repetto, Executive Secretary, Minamata Convention
Baskut Tuncak, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and hazardous substances

Ministerial Interventions:

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Wildlife (3 hours)

The numbers and range of many wildlife populations are in widespread decline across the world. Habitat destruction and illegal hunting for the international wildlife trade are two key drivers of this loss of biodiversity. Stemming this loss will depend on the reduction of poaching and curtailing illegal wildlife trade along the entire value chain, and safeguarding the system of protected and community managed areas. When these areas are properly managed, they become an asset on which wildlife-based tourism and other enterprises can be built for the benefit of local communities. This round table will explore the status of the wildlife trafficking crisis, the human and environmental impacts of the crisis, the latest approaches to addressing these challenges, and ways to develop a wildlife economy

Moderator/Host: Claudia McMurray, President and CEO, Mainstream Green Solutions LLC
Jillian Blackbeard, Executive Director for Marketing, Botswana Tourism Organization

Keynote Speaker(s):

Invited Speakers: John Dennis, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), UK Government
Grace Ge Gabriel, Regional Director, Asia, International Fund for Animal Welfare
Judy Garber, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of State, US
Dereck Joubert, CEO and Co-Founder, Great Plains
Sammy Leseita, Chief Operations Officer of SARARA, Kenya
Scott Robertson, Global Counter Wildlife Trafficking Coordinator, WCS, Viet Nam
Kaddu K. Sebuya, President, African Wildlife Foundation
Nik Sekhran, Chief Conservation Officer, WWF-US
Anna Spencely, Chair, Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group

Ministerial Interventions: Paula Cristina Francisco Coelho, Minister of Environment, Republic of Angola
Sadie Ousman Daba, Assistant Secretary General, Ministry of Environment, Republic of Tchad
Shri. Nikunj K. Sundaraj, Joint Secretary (IC&SD) and GEF OFP, India

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Gender and the Environment (1.5 hours)

The active participation of women is essential for the holistic, multidisciplinary, and inter-sectoral approach that is needed to safeguard the environment for future generations. But too often, women's roles and leadership are unrecognized or undervalued. Moreover, social and economic inequalities between men and women also often hold back prospects for sustainable development and undermine sound environmental management. To develop meaningful solutions to environmental challenges, efforts are needed on many fronts, including promoting an equal voice in planning and decision-making, and creating opportunities for both women and men to develop and support sustainable climate, energy, food, and urban solutions. This round table will facilitate a discussion around effective entry points to promote gender equality to tackle drivers of environmental degradation, and concrete opportunities on how the environmental community can better support gender-responsive policy and financing.

Moderator/Keynote Speaker(s): Anna-Karin Jatfors, Regional Director, Asia & Pacific, UN Women

Invited Speakers: Howard Bamsey, Executive Director, Green Climate Fund
Edna Kaptoyo, Executive Secretary, IAITPTF
Amy Luinstra, Program Manager/Gender Advisor, E. Asia Pacific Intl. Finance Corporation
Tran Thu Thuy MA, Gender trainer, Viet Nam Women's Union
H.E. Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, Deputy Prime Minister, Samoa
Bernadette Resurrection, Senior Gender Specialist Stockholm Environment Institute
Maria-Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General for Natural Resources, FAO
Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director, UN Habitat
Sue Szabo, Director-General, Environment and Food Security bureau, Global Affairs Canada

Ministerial Interventions:

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Innovation in Clean Energy (1.5 hours)

Over 1.2 billion people cannot access electricity and about 2.8 billion are suffering indoor air pollution due to the use of non-clean energy including solid biomass, kerosene, and coal for cooking. Yet clean energy options are becoming increasingly viable and desirable for the developing world. The capital cost of solar photovoltaic technology, for example, decreased by 50% from 2012-2017, and it will continue decreasing by another 50% over the next five years. Despite this potential, scaling-up clean energy investment and deployment in developing countries still faces financial and operational barriers and challenges. This round table will engage ministers, private sector leaders, and prominent energy experts to discuss how innovative business models can be developed for promoting clean energy innovations.

Moderator/Host: Kevin Braithwaite, Vice President of Global Programs, Cleantech Open
Keynote Speaker(s): LI Yong, Director General, UNIDO
Invited Speakers: Mark Lister, Acting Head of Programme, Copenhagen Center on Energy Efficiency
Atchara Poomee, Founder and Managing Director, PAC Corporation (Thailand) Co., Ltd.
Hari Rao, Founder/CTO, Agnisumukh Energy Solutions Pvt. Ltd
Sarquis J. B. Sarquis, Vice President and Chief Risk Officer, New Development Bank
Josué Tanaka, Managing Director, Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Department, EBRD
David Turk, Acting Director, Sustainability, Technology and Outlooks, IEA
Ministerial Interventions: H.E. Beatrice Maser Mallor, Ambassador of Switzerland to Viet Nam, Head of Delegation
H.E. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Minister of Environment, Costa Rica

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Conservation Finance (1.5 hours)

There is significant potential to increase private investments in conservation and ecosystem management from its current estimated level of about \$10 billion annually. By comparison, a recent survey conducted by the Global Impact Investing Network places the pool of impact investment capital at around \$114 billion, with over \$22 billion invested in 2016. This pool has grown significantly, increasing by 18% compounded annually between 2013 and 2015, but little has been directed at conservation and natural resource management. Enhanced use of blended finance may help unlock this potential, but this would require concerted effort to (i) develop and test innovative risk mitigation instruments to support blended finance models of public and private sector investments; and (ii) establish a track record of models demonstrating how such investments can be profitable/successful across a range of geographies and contexts. This round table will highlight growing private sector appetite for investment in conservation and natural resources management and how GEF can help crowd-in more investment. It will feature some of the innovative GEF non-grant project designs to spark the conversation on how countries can make use of these tools.

Moderator/Host: Kenneth Lay, Senior Managing Director, The Rock Creek Group
Keynote Speaker(s): Axel van Trotsenburg, Vice President, Development Finance, World Bank
Invited Speakers: Lorenzo Bernasconi, Senior Associate Director, The Rockefeller Foundation
Steven Collet, Operational Director, Member Executive Board, IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative
Patrick Dlamini, CEO, Development Bank of South Africa
Bey Soo Kiang, APRIL Chairman and RGE Vice Chairman
Jay L. Koh, Co-founder & Managing Director, The Lightsmith Group
Jennifer Morris, President, Conservation International
Justin Mundy, Strategic Advisor, The Prince's Charities' International Sustainability Unit
Kruskaia Sierra-Escalante, Manager, Blended Finance and Partnerships, Intl. Finance Corporation
Ministerial Interventions: H.E. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Minister of Environment, Costa Rica

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Sustainable Drylands (1.5 hours)

Intact dryland landscapes provide freshwater, food, fuel, and fiber, air and water purification, climate regulation, and habitats for wildlife. Governance challenges and inadequate land use practices, however, pose grave threats to these ecosystem services and is putting the health, livelihoods, and security of an estimated 1.5 billion people at risk. The international community is working to halt and reverse this through a commitment to land degradation neutrality (LDN). Yet due to the high levels of poverty in countries with a high percentage share of arid, semi-arid, and sub-humid drylands, there is a crucial need to integrate LDN priorities with food and water security, poverty reduction, income generation, and livelihood security. This round table will discuss potential opportunities for helping dryland countries advance LDN.

Moderator/Keynote Speaker(s): Dennis Garrity, Drylands Ambassador, UNCCD

Invited Speakers: Mariem Dkhil, Director for South-South Cooperation, Morocco Agricultural Credit
Juan Carlos Mendoza, Managing Director, UNCCD Global Mechanism
Gautier Queru, Investment Director and LDN Fund Project Leader, Mirova
Joy Tukahirwa, Uganda Landcare Network

Ministerial Interventions: H.E. Shri C.K. Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India