

IUCN Media Advisory

Sustainability Dialogue 7th October 2008 / 09:30-11:00 / Auditorium Philanthropy for a Sustainable Future

The Story

This is a dynamic time for philanthropy. As the number of foundations has doubled over the last decade, private giving has grown by double-digit percentages, and as newly wealthy mega-donors attract the media spotlight, expectations for philanthropy grow.

Although governments and the private sector have more resources, foundations have key advantages. They are not directly beholden to political interest groups or shareholders, they are quicker to act and are more likely to take chances on riskier, less proven projects or more contentious issues. Because of this, foundations have often served as catalysts for major social change in key areas such as human rights, social justice and women's rights.

And, as foundation assets grow and new foundations emerge, the future the philanthropic sector looks highly promising. In the coming decade, private foundations are expected to provide support in excess of USD 600 billion for a broad range of issues. Most resources will likely continue to target health, education, development, and public affairs.

Despite this significant investment, progress toward achieving sustainability at major scale has lagged behind the growing magnitude of 21C challenges. Global environmental trends continue to decline and human activities are becoming less sustainable as the twenty-first century unfolds.

Current discussions relating to climate change and energy security are reframing the international public policy debate at the beginning of the 21C, and redrawing the connections between social justice and the environmental agendas. In this challenging context, philanthropy faces a period of reflection and re-assessment. It is an opportune moment to examine philanthropy's approaches to new environment and development challenges, its evolution and its plans and vision for the future.

Key Issues

- What do philanthropic leaders see as the fundamental sustainability challenges of the 21st century?
- What are the current challenges and opportunities for philanthropy in addressing a new generation of environment and development issues?
- How can Foundations help build the institutional and governance arrangements needed to enable sustainable solutions to flourish?
- What is needed to promote greater collaboration between Foundations, and with other sectors of society and government?

Confirmed Panelists

Maria Blair, Associate Vice President and Managing Director, Rockefeller Foundation, USA

Maria Blair joined the Rockefeller Foundation in 2005. As an Associate Vice President and Managing Director, Blair provides leadership and strategic direction for select Foundation initiatives. Prior to joining the Rockefeller Foundation, Ms Blair was an associate principal with McKinsey & Company, where she focused on private sector development, microfinance, corporate social responsibility, and strategic development for non-profits. She earned her undergraduate degree from Harvard, was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University's Balliol College, where she received a master's degree in politics, economics and philosophy.

Kathy Bushkin Calvin, Executive Vice President, UN Foundation, USA

Kathy Bushkin Calvin has been Chief Operating Officer of the United Nations Foundation since 2003. The foundation was created in 1998 by entrepreneur and philanthropist Ted Turner's historic gift to support UN causes. The UN Foundation builds and implements public-private partnerships to address the world's most pressing problems, and also works to broaden support for the UN through advocacy and public outreach. The UN Foundation is a public charity. Kathy previously served as president of the AOL Time Warner Foundation and guided AOL Time Warner's other philanthropic activities and corporate responsibility initiatives. She joined America Online in 1997 as senior vice president and chief communications officer, following a career in politics, journalism, and public relations.

Ola Engelmark, Chair, Bellagio Forum for Sustainable Development and CEO, Mistra Foundation, Sweden

Dr Ola Engelmark is the Chief Executive of MISTRA, the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research, located in Stockholm. He is also the chairman of the Bellagio Forum for Sustainable Development. He has a background as an associate professor and a researcher in forest ecology and environmental sustainability, and has served both in Sweden and Canada. He was earlier the Director of the Swedish Institute for Ecological Sustainability, and has served on several committees for government and industry. Engelmark's main interests are on increased researcher-stakeholder cooperation and on how to support the societal challenge of sustainable development not exceeding ecosystem boundary conditions.

Jonathan Fanton, President, MacArthur Foundation, USA

Jonathan F. Fanton became president of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation on September 1, 1999. Previously, he had been president of the New School for Social Research in New York City for 17 years. With assets of about \$6.5 billion, MacArthur is one of the nation's largest foundations. It makes grants and program-related investments in the United States and abroad totaling more than \$225 million annually. At Yale University, Mr. Fanton earned a baccalaureate degree in 1965, a master's in philosophy in 1977, and a doctorate in American History in 1978. Mr. Fanton is a board member of Human Rights Watch (HRW), the largest U.S.-based human rights organization, which operates in 70 countries.

Merrill Fernando, President, MJF Charitable Foundation, Sri Lanka

Merrill J. Fernando was born in May 1930, in Negombo, a fishing town on the coast of Sri Lanka. He was still in his twenties when he established his own business and in the early 1980s registering the trademark DILMAH with a dream of eventually supplying pre-packed, value added tea to his bulk tea clientele. Merrill has a philosophy of sharing his profits and his family wealth with others who are less fortunate. He has set an example by establishing The Merrill J Fernando Charitable Foundation.

Andre Hoffmann, Member of the Board, MAVA Foundation, Switzerland

Mr André Hoffmann, Swiss national, born in 1958, pursued studies in economics at the university of St. Gallen and received a Masters of Business Administration from INSEAD. Mr Hoffmann is Vice-President of the Board of Roche Holding AG and Givaudan Ltd., as well as Chairman of the Nemadi Advisors Ltd and Living Planet Fund Management Co. Mr Hoffmann also serves on the board of

Glyndebourne Productions Ltd. and is Vice President of WWF International. He is a member of the board of the Mava Foundation

Graham Smith, Senior Vice-President External and Environmental Affairs Toyota Motor Europe and Chair of the Toyota Fund for Europe

Senior Vice-President, External & Environmental Affairs, Toyota Motor Europe. Concurrently he also assumed the new role of Managing Director, Toyota Motor Europe London Office. Prior to joining Toyota (GB) PLC, Graham held a number of senior Sales and Marketing positions with Ford Motor Company. In January 2003 Graham was invited to Chair the newly established UK Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership (LowCVP) and continues to hold this position. Graham is also the President of the Toyota Fund for Europe, a philatropic initiative of Toyota Motor Europe.

Ken Wilson, CEO, Executive Director, The Christensen Fund, USA

Ken Wilson has served as Executive Director of TCF since August 2002. Born in Malawi with a life spread rather across the world, Dr. Wilson studied zoology at the University of Oxford and anthropology at University College London where his doctorate focused on indigenous knowledge, health and human ecology in the agro-pastoral arid savannahs and woodlands of Southern Zimbabwe. Dr. Wilson has personal interests in wilderness, photography, poetry and music; has published widely academically; and been involved in the production of several films. He is also active in a number of grant making associations, including the Environmental Grant makers Association, The Consultative Group on Biological Diversity, Grant makers in the Arts, and the Northern California Grant makers Association.

Additional contribution

Motokazu Yoshida, Member of the Board, Keidanren Committee on Nature Conservation and Executive Vice President, Mitsui & Co Ltd, Japan

Discussion moderator

Tom Lovejoy, President, The Heinz Centre

Tom Lovejoy is the President of the H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics and the Environment. He was previously Executive Vice President of World Wildlife Fund-US, Assistant Secretary for Environmental and External Affairs and the counsellor to the Secretary for Biodiversity and Environmental Affairs at the Smithsonian Institution, Science Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior, Senior Advisor to UNEP and Chief Biodiversity Advisor to the World Bank. As a tropical and conservation biologist, he is the author or editor of numerous articles and five books on environmental issues.

IUCN Focal Point:

Dr. Hans Friederich
Head, Strategic Partnerships
IUCN

Hans.friederich@iucn.org

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