



# Speaker Bios

16th Session of the United Nations  
Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-16)  
United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA  
5 - 16 May 2008

Monday, MAY 5 2008

3pm - 5.30pm



Promoting and supporting the role of women in partnerships  
for Rural Development



## Sabina Mensah

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**Sabina Mensah, GRATIS Foundation and Ghana Gender and Energy Network**

Sabina Abina Mensah, holds a BSc degree in Biochemistry from the University of Science and Technology, Kumasi in Ghana and an MPhil degree in Food Science. She is the Gender and Development Coordinator of The GRATIS Foundation and is the contact person for the GRATIS Foundation as an organizing partner for women major group at the UN CSD-16. She is the president of the National Council of Catholic Women's Organisation, Tema branch and a member of the Good Shepherd Parish Council at Tema. She is a founding member of the Ghana Gender and Energy Network and the Energia contact person in Ghana. She has authored publications on renewable energy projects targeting grassroots women.

Monday, MAY 5 2008

3pm - 5.30pm



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## **Rebecca Pearl**

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### **Rebecca Pearl, Board Member, WOCAN**

Rebecca Pearl coordinates the Global Gender and Climate Alliance, an initiative led by UNDP, UNEP, World Conservation Union (IUCN) and other institutions. Prior to joining the GGCA, Rebecca was the Sustainable Development Program Coordinator at WEDO (Women's Environment & Development Organization), worked with UNIFEM-Andean Region to launch gender budget initiatives in Latin America, and began her career as a community development worker in Nicaragua. Rebecca has an academic background in environmental science and a Master's degree in Sustainable International Development from the Heller School at Brandeis University. She serves on the Board of Directors of WOCAN.

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## **Lesha (B.M.) Witmer**

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### **Leasha (B.M.) Witmer, Treasurer, Women for Water Partnership**

Ms. Witmer has an educational background in the areas of Dutch and International Law and Personnel, Financial and Strategic HR and General Management. She is the director of “WIMA” interim management, has extensive managerial experience and broad international NGO experience. Her expertise lies in the areas of capacity building, empowerment and participation strategies in water and sanitation. Her honorary functions include: Chair of the Committee on Sustainable Development of the Netherlands Council of Women, Chair of “Women for Water” of Business and Professional Women International, President of BPW The Netherlands and President of the VAM (women and labour market) foundation. Ms. Witmer was the Women’s Representative in the Dutch Government Delegation to the 12th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). Since then, she takes active part in the CSD meetings. Ms. Witmer has been one of the co-founders of the Women for Water Partnership and presently holds the position of Treasurer within the Steering Committee of the Partnership.

Tuesday, MAY 6 2008

3pm - 5.30pm



Why partnerships are critical in addressing  
desertification and drought?



## Marc Paquin

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**Marc Paquin, Senior Advisor, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie and the Institut de l'Énergie et de l'Environnement de la Francophonie (IEPF)**

Marc Paquin is Senior Advisor to the OIF-IEPF in relation to its sustainable land management and desertification programme and the Médiaterre web portal. He has also been involved in many strategic initiatives related to the UNCCD, including more recently as consultant to the Inter-governmental Inter-sessional Working Group (IIWG) created by the UNCCD-COP to elaborate the 10-year Strategic Plan of the UNCCD.

Co-founder and Executive Director of the Unisféra International Centre, Marc Paquin is a lawyer and MBA. Prior to founding Unisféra, Marc Paquin had been one of the first professionals to join the Commission for Environmental Cooperation of North America (CEC), an intergovernmental organization created in the context of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). From 1995 to 2000, he was successively, in-house lawyer, program manager for special legal projects and Secretary of the CEC Council of Ministers. From 1991 to 1995, Marc Paquin was advisor on governmental and regulatory affairs (environment and energy) in the Environment Department of Hydro-Québec, a public utility. Mr. Paquin also worked on the development of a research and workshops program on trade and environment policy at the International Academy for the Environment in Geneva, and participated in a research project on corporate and environmental law at the McGill Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law. Marc Paquin began his career with the Montreal-based law firm of Mackenzie Gervais.

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## **Michael Madjera**

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**Michael Madjera, Federation of Evangelical Churches in Central Germany, Competence Platform on Energy Crop and Agroforestry Systems for Arid and Semi-arid Ecosystems (COMPETE)**

Mr. Michael Madjera was born in Austria 1943, and is a trained lawyer. He worked from 1976 to 1992 in South Africa to build up a property administration for five Lutheran Missions and the Lutheran Church in South Africa. At present, he works on legal matters for the Federation of Evangelical Churches in Central Germany and is responsible for supervision of trusts, constitutional law, church-government relations. Michael Madjera works on renewable energy and policy structures for the production of energy crops and bio fuels in Sub Saharan Africa within the project COMPETE. This is a project financed mainly by the EU. Its purpose is to establish a platform for policy dialogue and capacity building on energy crop and agroforestry systems, for arid and semi-arid ecosystems in Sub Saharan Africa, and to identify pathways for the sustainable provision of bio energy.

Tuesday, MAY 6 2008

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Why partnerships are critical in addressing  
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## **Elisabeth Barsk-Rundquist**

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**Elisabeth Barsk-Rundquist, Director of Strategic Programmes -The Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**

Ms. Barsk-Rundquist, a Swedish national, has a 25 year UN career since 1982. She has extensive experience from numerous intergovernmental bodies and negotiation processes in the sphere of sustainable development, natural resources, energy and the environment. She was involved in the start-up of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the negotiations on sustainable forest management leading up to the United Nations Forum on Forests, as well as in the World Summit on Sustainable Development- “The Johannesburg Summit” (WSSD). Ms. Barsk-Rundquist is currently seconded from the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs to the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) hosted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). There she holds the position of Director of Strategic Programmes, developing and implementing strategic programmes to increase resources being directed towards the implementation of the Convention and adjusting the programmes of the Global Mechanism to the new realities of the international development architecture, such as the Paris Declaration, the “One UN” reform, and the increased importance of innovative mechanisms for financing sustainable development activities. Ms. Barsk-Rundquist holds a Master in Chemical Engineering, from the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm Sweden. Ms. Barsk-Rundquist is married and the proud mother of three daughters.

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**Friederike Knabe, Senior Research Associate, UNISFÉRA**

Friederike Knabe is a consultant in the field of international development. She specializes in inter-linkages and synergies between human development and environmental sustainability with particular emphasis to Africa's dryland regions. Following closely the negotiations of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNCCD) since 1995, and participating in most sessions of the Conference of the Parties, she has become a civil society expert on the Convention's international policy platform.

Friederike Knabe has worked for more than 20 years as senior manager in international not for profit human rights and development organizations in Europe and Canada. A member of the international NGO network on Desertification (RIOD), she has been working closely with civil society groups in developing countries and in Canada, guiding organizational evaluations and strategic planning processes.

More recently, Friederike Knabe has been undertaking various assignments as a policy analyst related to sustainable land management, desertification, climate change adaptation and gender mainstreaming into development programming, while contributing to several publications and reviews on international policy concerns. She has also developed education tools and led workshops and training sessions in these fields.

Ms. Knabe is of German background and holds an MA in Eastern European Studies and French from the former Free University in West Berlin (Germany).

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3pm - 5.30pm



Partnership solutions to Africa's development challenges: what types of partnerships and partners may Africa need?



## Cosmas Gitta

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**Cosmas Gitta, Chief, Division for Policy, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, UNDP**

Cosmas Gitta is Chief, Division for Policy at the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP. In this position, he oversees preparation of various reports and studies, including the biennial reports of the Secretary-General of the State of South-South cooperation. He was for many years Managing Editor of *Cooperation South*, a print and electronic development journal promoting collaboration among developing countries. In 2006, he launched an e-newsletter *Development Challenges: South-South Solutions* as a medium to share information on development related innovations with partners around the world. Mr. Gitta who holds a Ph.D. in International and Comparative Education has lectured on human rights education at Teachers College, Columbia University and at various campuses of the City University of New York.

Wednesday, MAY 7 2008

3pm - 5.30pm



Partnership solutions to Africa's development challenges: what types of partnerships and partners may Africa need?



## **Kaddu Sebunya**

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**Kaddu Sebunya, Director of Program for Technical Design, African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), Congo Basin Forest Partnership**

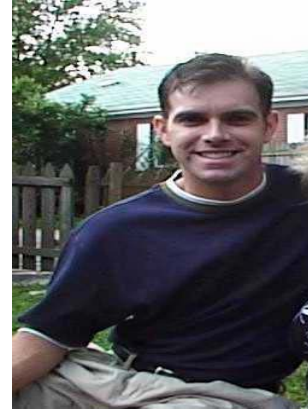
Kaddu Sebunya is the Director of Program for Technical Design at African Wildlife Foundation (AWF). He leads AWF's strategic partnership with U.S. Government and U.S. based multilateral agencies and major foundations. He provides technical design support to AWF field programs in Africa. Prior to joining AWF, Kaddu had over 15 years of professional experience at different levels of work, ranging from grassroots to national and regional technical support in Africa. His technical area of expertise included strategic planning and analysis, program feasibility assessments and design, and community-based strategy program development in different sectors, such as biodiversity conservation, ecotourism planning, rural development, relief and emergency refugee programs, water and environmental sanitation programs, program monitoring and evaluation, capacity building training, and in peace mediation and negotiations. Kaddu has a bachelor's degree in Social Development, Makerere University, Uganda; a Master of Arts degree in Law and Diplomacy, the Fletcher School, Tufts University (USA); and a Master of Science in Sustainable Resource Management and Policy Imperial College Wye, London University (UK).

Wednesday, MAY 7 2008

3pm - 5.30pm



Partnership solutions to Africa's development challenges: what types of partnerships and partners may Africa need?



## **Jim Thompson**

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**Jim Thompson, Deputy Director, Global Development Alliance, USAID**

Jim Thompson is the Deputy Director for USAID's Global Development Alliance. He is primarily responsible for alliance activities in the Europe and Eurasia Region and food and agriculture alliances. He is also the office lead for training and procurement reform in the Agency.

Jim has worked at the U.S. Department of Energy, as a Contracting Officer and joined USAID in that capacity twelve years ago. He has further served as a Food for Peace Officer and a Program Officer in the Europe and Eurasia Bureau. He has taught management courses throughout Africa, Latin America and Europe for the Agency.

Jim holds an International Relations degree from Saint Joseph's University and through a Rotary Foundation Graduate Fellowship he earned a Master of Arts in Political Studies from the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

Wednesday, MAY 7 2008

10am - 1pm



*Training session: Building effective partnership programs for sustainability*



## **Stephen Sylvan**

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**Stephan D. Sylvan, EPA Partnership Programs Coordinator, National Center for Environmental Innovation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

Since the position was created in 2004, Stephan Sylvan has served as U.S. EPA's Partnership Programs Coordinator based in the National Center for Environmental Innovation. He's responsible for ensuring the 50-plus EPA Partnership Programs are properly designed, measured, evaluated, marketed, branded, and coordinated. Prior to this role, Stephan developed, launched, and managed several successful business-government partnership programs for EPA: the Energy Star Home Electronics family of programs and the Best Workplaces for Commuters Initiative. In the late 1990s, Stephan led a nationwide campaign that helped turn the Energy Star label into a household word and an influential "eco-brand" delivering significant environmental results. Stephan served as national spokesperson for these programs appearing in many print and broadcast news stories. He also negotiated agreements to "franchise" Energy Star to the European Union and helped develop climate policy. In his first role at EPA, Stephan developed climate policy for EPA and performed policy analysis and support for many of EPA's most successful business-government partnership programs including Green Lights, Energy Star, Natural Gas Star, Landfill Methane Program, and the Coalbed Methane Program. Prior to EPA, Stephan spent seven years in product research and development, designing telecommunications systems and leading teams of design engineers and scientists at AT&T Bell Laboratories and Eastman Kodak. Stephan earned a master of public policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and a B.S. in Computer & Electrical Engineering from Purdue.

Thursday, MAY 8 2008

3pm - 5.30pm



Developing partnerships for agricultural innovation: the challenges



## Howarth Bouis

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**Howarth Bouis, Director, HarvestPlus, International Food Policy Research Institute – representing the CGIAR Challenge Program: Biofortified Crops for Improved Human Nutrition**

Howarth Bouis, in his position as Director of HarvestPlus, coordinates an interdisciplinary, global alliance of research centers and implementing agencies to biofortify and disseminate micronutrient-dense staple food crops and to measure their impact in improving nutrition. Since 1993, he has sought to promote biofortification activities both within the Future Harvest Centers, including their NARES partners, and in the international nutrition community – through publications, seminars, workshops, symposiums, and fund-raising. Bouis holds a joint appointment at the International Food Policy Research Institute (Washington, D.C.) where he is based, and the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) (Cali, Colombia). He received his B.A. in economics from Stanford University and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Stanford University's Food Research Institute. He joined IFPRI in 1982, as a post-doctoral fellow in the Food Consumption and Nutrition Division (FCND), and later as Research Fellow and Senior Research Fellow in FCND. His research concentrated on understanding how economic factors affect food demand and nutrition outcomes, particularly in Asia. Before entering graduate school, he spent three years in the Philippines with Volunteers in Asia.

Thursday, MAY 8 2008

3pm - 5.30pm



Developing partnerships for agricultural innovation: the challenges



## Sally Bunning

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**Sally Bunning, Land Conservation and Management Officer – Food and Agricultural Organization, representing the Globally Important Ingenious Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) partnership**

Sally Bunning is the Land Conservation and Management Officer of the Land and Water Division, Natural Resources and Environment Department of FAO. She holds a Geography degree, a Master of Science and Diplome d'Agronomie Approfondie (DAA) AA in Land Use Planning/Soil and Water Management from Nottingham University, UK and ENSAM, France. She has worked on various aspects of land resources management, including 10 years in various countries in Africa and a further 15 years in FAO Headquarters, Rome, including two years seconded to the Secretariat of Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal to set up the agricultural biodiversity programme of work. Sally currently focuses on integrated and participatory approaches for sustainable land and ecosystem management working at different scales from farmer field schools, community planning and land degradation assessment at local level to developing and providing technical support to projects at watershed and river basin level.

Thursday, MAY 8 2008

3pm - 5.30pm



Developing partnerships for agricultural innovation: the challenges



## **Dr. Sara Scherr**

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**Sara Scherr PhD, President, CEO, ECOAGRICULTURE partnership**

Sara J. Scherr is an agricultural and natural resource economist specializing in land and forest management policy in tropical developing countries. Founder of Ecoagriculture Partners, she now serves as its President and CEO. From 2001-2005, she also served as Director of Ecosystem Services for Forest Trends, an NGO that promotes forest conservation through improved markets for forest products and ecosystem services. She is a member of the United Nations Millennium Project Task Force on Hunger, and a member of the Board of Directors of the World Agroforestry Centre in Nairobi, Kenya. Dr. Scherr's previous positions include: Adjunct Professor at the University of Maryland, College Park, USA; Co-Leader of the CGIAR Gender Program; Senior Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington, D.C.; and Principal Researcher at the World Agroforestry Centre. She was previously a Fulbright Scholar (1976) and a Rockefeller Social Science Fellow (1985-87). Dr. Scherr received her BA in Economics at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, and her MSc and PhD in International Economics and Development at Cornell University in New York. Dr. Scherr has published 26 articles in refereed journals, 2 annotated bibliographies, 9 monographs, more than 50 book chapters, and 11 books, including *Ecoagriculture: Strategies to Feed the World and Save Wild Biodiversity* (with Jeff McNeely), *A New Agenda for Forest Conservation and Poverty Reduction: Making Markets Work for Low-Income Producers* (with Andy White and David Kaimowitz), and *Farming with Nature* (with Jeff McNeely).

Thursday, MAY 8 2008

3pm - 5.30pm



Developing partnerships for agricultural innovation: the challenges



## Jennifer Vogel Bass

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**Jennifer Vogel Bass, Communications Manager, Rainforest Alliance - Raising Smallholder Farmer Income in the Developing World**

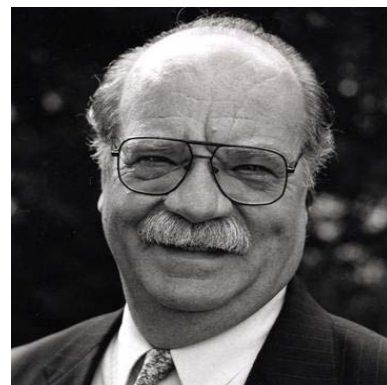
As Communications Manager for the US and Canada at the Rainforest Alliance, Jennifer Vogel Bass is responsible for spreading the message about the work of the Rainforest Alliance to the public at large through media, the Web, publications and social/viral marketing. Prior to joining the Rainforest Alliance she earned a master's degree focused on agriculture and international development at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and spent four years working at Earthwatch Institute, where she traveled throughout Africa, Latin America, Australia and the Pacific Northwest of North America networking with local scientists and institutions to develop conservation research initiatives. She has a BA in anthropology from Tufts University.

Friday, MAY 9 2008

4.30 pm - 6.00pm



Dialogue with major groups and representatives of partnerships initiatives



## Loren Finnell

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**Loren Finnell, Executive Director, President and CEO, The Resource Foundation**

Loren Finnell, is a humanitarian, a pioneer and a social entrepreneur. He has 44 years of experience working with nonprofit organizations (NGOs) worldwide, having founded The Resource Foundation (TRF) in 1987 in order to identify and channel resources to NGOs in Latin America and the Caribbean. Prior to establishing TRF, he held various other key positions with international nonprofit agencies, resulting in trips to 44 countries on multiple occasions. He has been credited with “taking a leading role in making American development donors and practitioners focus on the needs of NGOs”, as well as “writing the book” on encouraging and helping individuals and corporations support their work. Mr. Finnell has written many technical documents, reports and publications on management, fundraising and programmatic issues facing NGOs, and he has organized and/or participated in numerous international workshops addressing these same topics. He has been honored twice by his alma mater, Manchester College in No. Manchester, IN, once for his philanthropic activity (1997), and later with an Alumni Award (2002), and he will receive an honorary doctorate degree, *honoris causa*, at their May 2008 commencement exercises. In 2006, the National Peace Corps Association selected him to receive the Sargent Shriver Distinguished Humanitarian Award, and he was designated as a Skoll Foundation Fellow in that same year.

Friday, MAY 9 2008

4.30 pm - 6.00pm



Dialogue with major groups and representatives of partnerships initiatives



## **Dr. Helen Marquard**

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**Helen Marquard PhD, Executive Director, The SEED Initiative**

Dr. Marquard is the Executive Director of the SEED Initiative which was founded by UNEP, UNDP and IUCN at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. SEED supports emerging social and environmental entrepreneurial partnerships in the developing world: SEED holds an annual global competition and conducts research to determine the main factors for success, for scale-up and for replication. Previously Helen was at the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, leading work in a number of policy areas including international and European sustainable development, chemicals and biotechnology safety. She was responsible for setting up Partners for Environmental Cooperation in Europe (PECE) and is a co-editor of The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Helen has also worked on environment policy at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London. Helen's academic background is in molecular biology and cancer research. Most of her work was on DNA repair mechanisms at the Max-Planck-Institute for Brain Research in Cologne, and at the Technical University in Aachen, Germany.

Friday, MAY 9 2008

4.30 pm - 6.00pm



Dialogue with major groups and representatives of partnerships initiatives



## **Kaddu Sebunya**

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**Kaddu Sebunya, Director of Program for Technical Design, African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), Congo Basin Forest Partnership**

Kaddu Sebunya is the Director of Program for Technical Design at African Wildlife Foundation (AWF). He leads AWF's strategic partnership with U.S. Government and U.S. based multilateral agencies and major foundations. He provides technical design support to AWF field programs in Africa. Prior to joining AWF, Kaddu had over 15 years of professional experience at different levels of work, ranging from grassroots to national and regional technical support in Africa. His technical area of expertise included strategic planning and analysis, program feasibility assessments and design, and community-based strategy program development in different sectors, such as biodiversity conservation, ecotourism planning, rural development, relief and emergency refugee programs, water and environmental sanitation programs, program monitoring and evaluation, capacity building training, and in peace mediation and negotiations. Kaddu has a bachelor's degree in Social Development, Makerere University, Uganda; a Master of Arts degree in Law and Diplomacy, the Fletcher School, Tufts University (USA); and a Master of Science in Sustainable Resource Management and Policy Imperial College Wye, London University (UK).

Friday, MAY 9 2008

4.30 pm - 6.00pm



Dialogue with major groups and representatives of partnerships initiatives



## **Amanda Luxande**

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**Amanda Luxande, REEEP Regional Manager for Southern Africa, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership**

Amanda Luxande holds degrees in Zoology and Ecology (BSc, UCT), Policy and Development Studies (BSocSci, UKZN) and Environment and Development (MSc, University of Manchester). Between theoretical studies she has been engaging with key global environmental issues through her work placements at the South African National Biodiversity Institute in the field of conservation planning where she was involved in the formulation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. She has also worked for the Department of Water Affairs performing reserve determinations and engaging in matters related to aquatic resource protection. Through her work for the Department of Agriculture was also involved with the roll-out of capacity building and skills development programmes for small-scale farmers in communities across the Western Cape. As REEEP's Regional Manager, is currently involved in facilitating the implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency systems in Southern Africa, as part of mitigating against the impacts of climate change.

Monday, MAY 12 2008

3pm - 6pm



*Training session:* An introduction to evaluating cross-sector partnerships,  
*Sponsor:* The Partnering Initiative, International Business Leaders Forum



## **Dr. Darian Stibbe**

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**Darian Stibbe PhD, Development Director, The Partnering Initiative, International Business Leaders Forum**

Darian is Development Director of The Partnering Initiative, a global programme of the International Business Leaders Forum, IBLF, a non-profit organisation which aims to put business at the heart of sustainable development.

Darian is an accredited partnership broker (IBLF/ODI Partnership Brokers Accreditation Scheme). He has developed courses and been a trainer in partnering skills around the world, including introducing a partnership training course, 'Partnerships 101', into the UN Commission for Sustainable Development meeting in 2007.

At The Partnering Initiative, Darian managed 'The Partnering Event' - a major convocation of partnership practitioners over three days in Cambridge, UK; he has developed a corporate engagement strategy for UNICEF including creating a framework for organisational partnership capacity building; and runs the ongoing 'Partnering with Governments' programme to build the capacity of governments in Africa to partner more effectively with business. He is currently developing a major new programme on partnership review and evaluation and is also developing the Initiative's online networking, learning, collaboration and information-exchange hub for partnership practitioners worldwide - the Partnership Forum.

Tuesday, MAY 13 2008

3pm - 5.30pm



Creative partnering to enhance sustainable  
development and conservation in SIDS



## **Dr. Tom Goreau**

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**Tom Goreau PhD, President, Global Coral Reef Alliance**

Dr. Tom Goreau, President of the Global Coral Reef Alliance, a non-profit organization for coral reef protection and sustainable management, and Coordinator of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development Partnership in New Technologies for Small Island Developing States. He was previously Senior Scientific Affairs Officer at the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development, in charge of global climate change and biodiversity issues. He has published around 200 papers in all areas of coral reef ecology, and on global climate change, the global carbon cycle, changes in global ocean circulation, tropical deforestation and reforestation, microbiology, marine diseases, soil science, atmospheric chemistry, community-based coastal zone management, mathematical modeling of climate records, visualizing turbulent flow around marine organisms, scientific photography, and other fields. Of Panamanian origin, he was educated in Jamaican primary and secondary schools, at MIT (B.Sc in Planetary Physics), Caltech (M.Sc in Planetary Astronomy), Yale, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and Harvard (Ph.D. in Biogeochemistry), and is a certified nuisance crocodile remover.

Tuesday, MAY 13 2008

3pm - 5.30pm



Creative partnering to enhance sustainable  
development and conservation in SIDS



## **Dr. Rolph Payet**

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**Rolph Payet PhD, Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)**

Dr. Rolph Payet is Special Advisor to the President of the Republic of Seychelles and one of the Founders of the Global Island Partnership. He is also a lead author with the IPCC. In 2006 he was recognized as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum for his work in advancing environment and climate issues at the global level. He is also chairman of the Seychelles University Foundation, tasked with the responsibility to establish the first University in Seychelles.

Tuesday, MAY 13 2008

3pm - 5.30pm



Creative partnering to enhance sustainable  
development and conservation in SIDS



## **Dr. Erik W. Hagberg**

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**Erik W. Hagberg PhD, Founder of Pacific Aquaculture Cooperatives International (PAC International)**

Erik's first dreams were of being a fisherman and a marine biologist. While studying for his B.S. in environmental science at Boston University's Woods Hole program, Erik gained hands on experience by running a private fishing boat, working on a commercial shell fishing grant, serving as a natural resource officer for a municipal shellfish department, and independently developing a number of new aquaculture prototypes. Following graduation, Erik traveled the Pacific, working on commercial pearl farms in Australia, the Cook Islands, and Tahiti, and visited numerous outer island communities throughout the Pacific to learn local ways of life. Along the way, he made some very important discoveries related to sustainably farming sea cucumbers. In 2005, he founded Pacific Aquaculture Cooperatives International and began to develop the "Corporate Cooperative" business model for sustainable development in Small Island Developing States. In 2006, Erik Founded PAC RMI Inc., the first operational corporate cooperative in the Republic of the Marshall Islands which is currently providing grass roots development opportunities to outer island communities by establishing its first sea cucumber farms.