

Featured Speakers



Moderator: Sabina Bharwani, *Director, CAFIID*

Sabina Bharwani is an independent consultant, and impact investor in Canada who is committed to building an equitable and sustainable world through supporting women leaders and underrepresented communities in Canada. Her investment sectors are Agriculture, Climate and Sustainability, Education, Healthcare and Financial Services. Sabina serves as the Treasurer on the board of the Canadian Forum for Impact Investment and Development. Sabina has held leadership roles in risk management, investment banking, and impact investing at Kiva, Barclays, HSBC, and KPMG.



Panelist: Jason Taylor, *Founder and CEO, Climate Finance Advisors*

Jason Taylor is a capital markets professional with over 20 years of experience and founder of Climate Finance Advisors. He has led the teams and development of the sustainable finance strategy for two Canadian banks working with groups across the bank and capital markets. Jason has also participated in a number industry workstreams to accelerate the mainstreaming of sustainable finance. He is an advocate for using the power of capital to influence systemic change and contribute to building just, faire, and resilient communities. His work focuses on crowding-in capital to shrink various funding gaps in a financially efficient manner.



Panelist: Abdul Malik, *Global lead, Work and Enterprise, AKF*

As Global Lead for Work and Enterprise, Abdul Malik drives AKF's global entrepreneurship and employment programming. Specific areas of focus include Future of Work, Green Enterprises and demand-led skills and employment initiatives. He also provides strategic oversight to AKF's work around clean energy, with a specific focus on promoting off-grid distributed solutions. Prior to his current tenure, Malik has served as General Manager of the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme Pakistan and has also worked with World Bank and Brookings Institution.



Panelist: Omoneka Oyier, *Senior Director, Technical Areas, MEDA*

Omoneka (Omo) Oyier is the Sr. Director of MEDA's Technical Areas of Practice. In this role, she is responsible for strengthening MEDA's expertise and global thought leadership in four interrelated areas including Inclusive Market Systems, Innovative Finance, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion and Environment and Climate Change. Omo brings a wealth of expertise as a seasoned international development professional with 15 years' of experience, including 11 years at the International Finance Corporation. Her broad experience covers digital finance, agri food market systems, gender equality and climate action.



Panelist: Joao Sousa, Senior Programme Manager, Ocean Team, IUCN

Joao is an experienced Biotechnology engineer specializing in oil & gas operations, bioenergy, biofuels and biodiversity. His work focuses on Blue Carbon initiatives and collaborative solutions to mitigate plastic waste in the Ocean. This involves coordinating research to inform policy, creating platforms to encourage innovation and sharing of best practices, and cooperating with industry to change behavior. Joao also worked on conservation and mitigation for the Oil and Gas industry in the North Sea, as well as private sector engagement for best practices in the production, extraction and transformation sectors in Mozambique.



Guest Speaker: Kerry Max, Deputy Director, Partnering for Climate, GAC

Kerry has over thirty years of experience in international development research, practice, policy and programming, including in climate change and biodiversity, private sector development and microfinance, trade, investment, development finance and project management. He currently manages Partnering for Climate, a portfolio of nature-based solutions projects that deliver gender-responsive climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation. He also co-leads a nature and biodiversity community of practice that hopes to increase knowledge and capacity in nature-based solutions for climate and biodiversity across the world. Kerry has an M.Phil in Economics from Oxford University and a degree in International Development.

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