



إكسبو 2020 دبي  
دبي الإمارات العربية المتحدة  
DUBAI UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



المجلس العالمي  
WORLD MAJLIS

in collaboration with

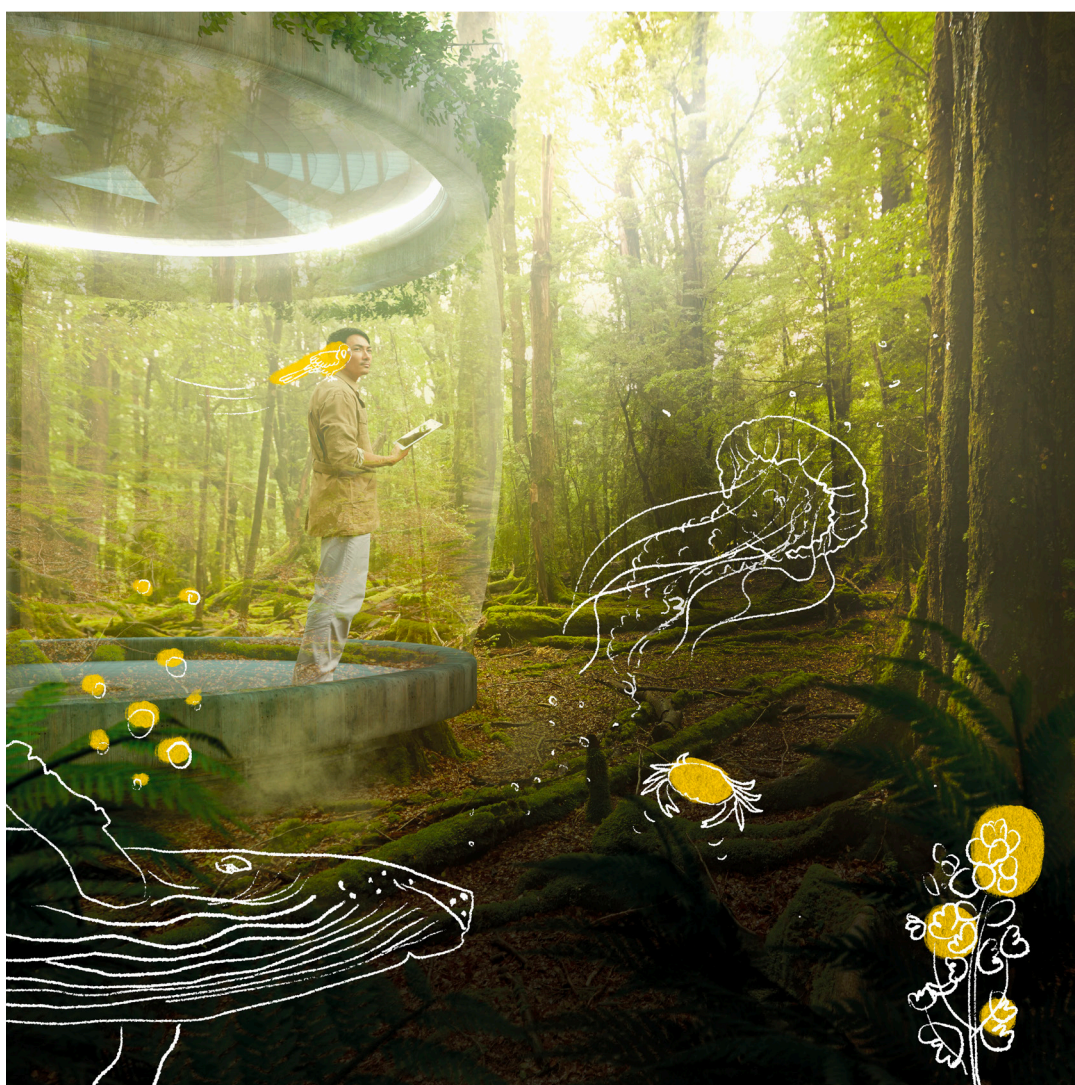
SWISS PAVILION  
EXPO 2020 DUBAI

# Expo 2020 Dubai

## WORLD MAJLIS AGENDA

### CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY WEEK

3-9 October 2021



### NATURE'S GAME OF JENGA:

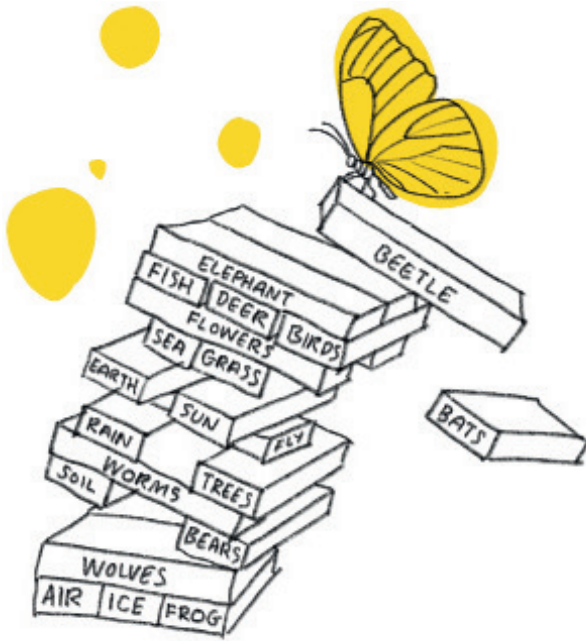
Getting Creative to Fight Biodiversity Loss

in collaboration with Switzerland

**DATE** Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021

**TIME** 4.00 to 6.00 PM UAE

**VENUE** Terra - The Sustainability Pavilion



## THE CONVERSATION TOPIC

### NATURE'S GAME OF JENGA:

#### Getting Creative to Fight Biodiversity Loss

Nature is a complex web and its remarkably diverse ecosystems make it possible for all of us to live on earth. They clean water, regulate disease and climate, support crop pollination and soil formation; they feed our bodies and our souls, giving us nourishment, recreation, medicine, even spirituality.

**T**he history of evolution shows that there are strong and even unexplored links among all species, including our own, and the loss of even one of them impacts many in unexpected ways. Just like the game of Jenga, we may never know when removing one peg could cause the whole structure to collapse.

As we encroach more on our natural habitats, we are not getting closer to them, we are actually growing more disconnected from nature. Because of human activity, close to one million animal and plant species could soon go extinct, leading to a chain of unpredictable consequences. Nature's responses to our growing intrusions are now affecting entire communities at an unprecedented scale and frequency, from wildfires to global pandemics and insect invasions.

As we continue to weigh our dilemma - between economic development and the health of people and planet – it is urgent we find solutions to protect our ecosystems and support our long-term ability to thrive not just alongside nature, but also as part of it.

How critical is biodiversity to human survival today?

Why is it so difficult to view ourselves as part of nature?

How can we gain a better understanding of our deeply interconnected ecosystems and reinvent our relationship with nature?

What solutions can we rely on to sustain biodiversity on our planet?

## MODERATOR

**EITHNE TREANOR****Managing Director, E Treanor Media**

Eithne Treanor is a professional conference moderator and international communications consultant. Having worked as a business TV reporter, her knowledge covers energy, technology, security, infrastructure, and leadership.

She is the managing director and founder of E Treanor Media based in Dubai, UAE. In recent months, she has moved her reporting and moderating skills on-line to facilitate a number of major global conferences.

As a former international broadcast journalist, her TV reporting experience spans major television networks including ABC News, Sky News, BBC World, Bloomberg and CNBC International.

She also provides dynamic and energetic bespoke media and presentation trainings for government officials, corporate executives and leaders. To meet client demand, her latest offering is moderator and webinar training to help people be more effective and impactful delivering conference content in the virtual world. Eithne has interviewed politicians, dignitaries, and high-ranking business people and has written and reported for television, radio and print publications.

## PARTICIPANTS

**HER EXCELLENCY DR. SHAIKHA SALEM AL DHAHERI****Secretary General, Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, UAE**

Dr. Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri is the Secretary General of the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD), the largest environmental regulator in the Middle East, responsible for protecting and preserving our natural resources and promoting sustainable development in the emirate.

Dr. Al Dhaheri holds a PhD degree in Wildlife Conservation and Protection from the University of Aberdeen in the United Kingdom, which makes her the first Emirati woman to earn the accolade. She has been credited for introducing innovative ideas and solutions to the field of environmental protection and species conservation and has overseen the implementation of numerous programs on biodiversity, protected areas, threatened species and fisheries, including national and global species reintroduction programs.

She also serves on several committees and councils in the UAE; and is also an active member of many international organizations, including serving as the Chair of the IUCN UAE National Committee.

**SIR TIM SMIT KBE****Executive Chair & Founding Director, Eden Project, United Kingdom**

Sir Tim Smit is best-known for his achievements in Cornwall. He 'discovered' and then restored 'The Lost Gardens of Heligan' with John Nelson, which is now one of the UK's best-loved gardens, having been named 'Garden of the Year' by BBC Countryfile Awards (Mar 2018). Tim's book 'The Lost Gardens of Heligan' won Book of the Year in 1997.

Tim is Executive Vice-Chair and Co-founder of the multi award-winning Eden Project in Cornwall. Since its opening in 2001, over 22 million people have come to see a once sterile pit, turned into a cradle of life containing world-class horticulture and startling architecture symbolic of human endeavour. Tim is also Executive Co-Chair for Eden Project International which aims to have an Eden Project on every habited continent by 2025.



**PROFESSOR ALEXANDRE ROULIN****Head of the Owl for Peace Initiative, University of Lausanne, Switzerland**

Alexandre Roulin is 53 and a full professor of biology at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland. He took an atypical career path by doing an apprenticeship of civil engineering. He then attended a night school to get his "maturity degree" before university. Interested in birds since the age of 7, his focus is on the evolution of life. His main scientific interests are the adaptive function of melanin-based colouration and negotiation processes taking place in animal societies, using the barn owl as a model organism. His research is now expanding into other fields such as conservation psychology and social psychology. Since 2009, he has been promoting cooperation between Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian communities using nature conservation as a tool. His ambition is to reconcile human with nature and to use this inter-disciplinary approach toward peace and respect for our environment. He recently published a monography about the Barn Owl at Cambridge University Press. This would be the first step in presenting his work to the public.

**DR. EMILIANO ESTERCI RAMALHO****Technical-Scientific Director, Mamirauá Institute, Brazil**

Dr. Emiliano Esterci Ramalho is the Technical-Scientific Director of the Mamirauá Institute, coordinator of Project Providence, and leader of the Amazon Felid Ecology and Conservation Research Group. He graduated in Biological Sciences from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (2003), has a Masters in Ecology from the National Institute of Amazonian Research (2006), and a Ph.D. from the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, at the University of Florida, supported by a CAPES/ Fulbright full doctoral scholarship. He is a founding member of the Alliance for the Conservation of the Jaguar and a member of the Instituto Pró-Carnívoros. He dedicated the last 16 years of his professional career to jaguar conservation and studying the ecology of this large predator in the Amazonian Flooded Forests. His goal is to reduce the number of jaguars killed by hunters and improve quality of life for people co-existing with the species. He is currently responsible for the largest and oldest jaguar research and conservation program in the Brazilian Amazon. He also works in the areas of community-based biodiversity monitoring, sustainable use of natural resources, research and conservation networks, and technological innovations for monitoring biodiversity.

**GERRARD ALBERT****Whanganui Iwi, New Zealand**

Up to September 2021, Gerrard Albert has been the Chair of Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui, the post-settlement governance body for Whanganui Iwi (Iwi means a Māori tribal grouping) established at settlement of the tribe's claim with the New Zealand Government in 2014. As a result of the claim settlement, New Zealand accorded legal personhood to the Whanganui River, flipping the existing paradigm by placing the River as the focus of human interaction in line with the indigenous value set of Whanganui Iwi, called Tupua Te Kawa, now shared with the nation. Since then, other nations have followed suit in an effort to protect the environment by according to values, or legal rights to natural resources.

Gerrard's first point of reference in all things is the Whanganui River itself and he has an intimate understanding of the tikanga (customs and values) and kawa (law system) of Whanganui Iwi relating to the River. Gerrard led the treaty settlement negotiations with the New Zealand Government that resulted in the legal personhood status of the Whanganui River. He has more than 25 years professional experience with local and central government on environmental resource management issues.

Gerrard is a senior member of the Māori community and holds unique and insightful views on the innate connection between the natural environment and people as a pathway to greater care for people and place. He brings value to conversations about indigenous perspectives relating to the climate and the environment, as well as sharing environmental best practice using the example of the Whanganui personhood.

**DR. LALASIA BIALIC-MURPHY****Lead Scientist, Crowther Lab ETH Zurich, Switzerland**

Dr. Lalasia Bialic-Murphy is a Lead Scientist in the Crowther Lab at ETH Zurich. Lalasia's research bridges population and community ecology, with an emphasis on comparative demography. A central theme of her work is identifying the environmental factors and phylogenetic relationships that shape population and community dynamics. Her work ranges from conducting manipulative field experiments to identify the drivers of elevated extinction risk, to leveraging global demographic datasets to characterize the impacts of global change on forest trees. Lalasia received her Ph.D. in 2017 at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and then did a postdoc at the University of Tennessee and the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis Center. In addition to her academic background, Lalasia has nine years of management experience running conservation monitoring programs and conducting large-scale rare species restoration efforts in Hawai'i.

**PROFESSOR THOMAS CROWTHER****Crowther Lab, ETH Zurich, Switzerland**

Professor Dr. Thomas Crowther is a Welsh scientist studying ecology and biodiversity. He is a professor in the department of Global Ecosystem Ecology at ETH Zurich, where he founded Crowther Lab, an interdisciplinary group of scientists studying global ecosystems and generating knowledge to protect biodiversity and address climate change. Crowther serves as co-chair of the advisory board of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, along with Lucy Mullenkei. After his PhD, Crowther received a postdoctoral fellowship from the Yale Climate and Energy Institute. In 2015 he was awarded a Marie Curie fellowship at the Netherlands Institute of Ecology (NIOO) at Wageningen University to research the impact of carbon cycle feedbacks to climate change. Crowther began his tenure-track professorship at ETH Zurich in 2017, where his work focuses on the interaction of global-scale ecological systems which regulate the climate. His research has deepened public and scientific understanding of the role nature-based solutions and the protection of biodiversity can play in the fight against climate change.

In 2021, Crowther Lab launched Restor, an independent not-for-profit organization and open data platform that provides transparency and connectivity to conservation and restoration efforts across the globe. Crowther has been named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum for his work on the protection and restoration of biodiversity and serves on the advisory council of WEF's Trillion Trees initiative (1T.org).

VIDEO  
CONTRIBUTIONS**MIHA HROVAT****Co-Founder and Project Manager, Treecelet, Slovenia**

Miha Hrovat is the 27-year-old Slovenian co-founder and manager of a tree-planting project called Treecelet. Their mission is to create a sustainable life by planting trees.

He has two great passions: making the world a better place, and entrepreneurship. Since he was a kid, he has been looking for ways to impact our planet positively. In addition, he was intrigued by Morals and Ethics so much that he studied philosophy and successfully finished his degree in 2017.

It was at that time that he started taking serious steps into entrepreneurship. That step was inevitable since his family has lived with entrepreneurship for the last 60 years. Treecelet connected everything he is:

- A compassionate individual who wants to help.
- A competitive sportsman.
- An ambitious young man with an entrepreneurial mind.

Since then, he has specialized in running sustainable e-commerce, focused on performance marketing and growth.

At Treecelet, success is measured through the following achievements: +350.000 planted trees, +100 families involved in tree planting live a better life, +30.000 supporters, and more than 15 million people reached.

**PABLO FAJARDO****Environmental lawyer and activist, Ecuador**

Pablo Fajardo Mendoza, a farmer from the countryside of Ecuador, studied and graduated as a lawyer in the early 2000s from the Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja. As a lawyer, he works to defend the rights of indigenous peoples, farmers, and nature in the Ecuadorian Amazon. Among the most emblematic cases he has worked on: "UDAPT versus Chevron Corporation", about the destruction of more than 480,000 hectares in the Ecuadorian Amazon; 9 girls versus the Ecuadorian State for the inadequate combustion of oil gas; and Waorani elders versus the CNPC company, for global warming and its damages.

More recently, he was also part of the team of experts who worked on the definition of "Ecocide", as the "destruction of the natural environment by deliberate or negligent human action". Furthermore, he is a part of the working team for the Unión de Afectados y afectadas por las operaciones de Texaco UDAPT - an organisation that brings together communities affected by the contamination from the Chevron Corporation (formerly known as Texaco) in the northern Ecuadorian Amazon.



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