



5<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN CLIMATE CHANGE  
ADAPTATION CONFERENCE

#ECCA2021

WEBINAR May 27th 13:30-16:00 CEST

## Nature as a solution:

For resilience,  
mitigation and  
sustainable  
development

#ECCA2021



Co-organisers



Receipt



## BIOGRAPHIES:

### CHAMPION:

Sergio Castellari (National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology)



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**Sergio Castellari** is a climate scientist with a long-term expertise in climate change adaptation. He is a senior scientist at the National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology (INGV) in Bologna (Italy). Until recently he was seconded at the European Environment Agency (EEA) in Copenhagen (Denmark) and before that he was seconded at the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC) in Bologna (Italy). He was a climate science/policy expert for the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea. He was the National Focal Point for Italy of the IPCC. He participated to IPCC, UNFCCC, UNCCD, GEO sessions. He was co-chair/facilitator of Contact Groups and Informal Consultations at UNFCCC-SBSTA sessions. He holds a degree in Physics (University of Bologna) and a Ph.D. in Meteorology and Physical Oceanography (University of Miami, FL, USA).



## BIOGRAPHIES:

MODERATOR:

Karen Sudmeier-Rieux  
(United Nations Environment Programme)



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**Karen Sudmeier-Rieux** is a Senior Advisor, Disaster Risk Reduction with the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Disasters and Conflicts program in Geneva. Karen has over a decade of experience researching, teaching and publishing on the topic of ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction. She is currently coordinating a global project on ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction, which includes the development of a post-graduate course and two Massive Open Online Courses on Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction. She is also a scholar of ecosystem-based landslide management, with expertise from Nepal. She holds a PhD in Environmental Science from the University of Lausanne (UNIL), Switzerland and Masters' degrees in international development and forest ecology from Switzerland and the United States.



## BIOGRAPHIES:

SPEAKER IN BREAKOUT GROUPS:

McKenna Davis (Ecologic Institute)



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**McKenna Davis** is a Senior Fellow at Ecologic Institute. Her work focuses on the assessment of green infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as their surrounding governance frameworks. McKenna's expertise extends to European biodiversity and nature protection policies and the links to climate change adaptation. She currently coordinates Ecologic Institute's work in the Horizon2020 NATURVATION and CLEVER Cities projects and is Deputy Coordinator of the INTERLACE project, focusing on developing decision support tools for urban NBS planning, strengthening co-creation processes around regenerative NBS, and assessing preferences and values for nature-based solutions. McKenna is also part of the European Topic Center on Biological Diversity (ETC/BD)



## BIOGRAPHIES:

SPEAKER IN BREAKOUT GROUPS:

Laura Wendling (VTT)



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**Laura Wendling** (VTT) is a Research Team Leader (Nature-Based Solutions team) at VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland. She is an environmental scientist specialising in the co-development, implementation, and impact evaluation of innovative nature-based and hybrid green-blue-grey solutions to support the long-term sustainability and climate-resilience of cities and communities.



## BIOGRAPHIES:

### SPEAKER IN BREAKOUT GROUPS:

Teresa Pastor (EUROPARC Federation)



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**Teresa Pastor** developed her professional career in the Biological Sciences, in its broadest sense. In the first part of her career, she was involved in several research projects tackling conservation issues in marine mammals, with a focus on conservation genetics and pollution at the University of Barcelona. After the completion of her PhD, she moved into management issues and policy approaches in Protected Areas. For fifteen years, she was the coordinator of FEDENATUR, the European Association of Periurban Parks. Since 2016, she works as Project Development & Charter Sustainable Tourism Manager for the EUROPARC Federation, the largest Protected Areas network.



## BIOGRAPHIES:

SPEAKER IN THE PANEL:

Eva Mayerhofer (European Investment Bank)



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**Eva Mayerhofer** (European Investment Bank) is the Lead Biodiversity Specialist at the European Investment Bank. She coordinates the EIB's efforts to support EU and international biodiversity policies, to mobilise financial resources for natural capital investments and to mainstream biodiversity considerations into economic sectors as well as Bank operations. She is currently working on integrating biodiversity and ecosystem risks and impacts into all Bank activities as well as supporting the development of tools and methodologies for biodiversity and ecosystem valuation and accounting. She is one of the originators of the EIB/EC Natural Capital Financing Facility. Prior to joining the EIB, she has worked as an environment specialist at the Asian Development Bank. She has over 20 years of experience in environmental impact assessment, natural resource management and biodiversity conservation and has worked extensively across Europe, Asia, the Pacific and Africa with various development agencies and projects.



## BIOGRAPHIES:

SPEAKER IN THE PANEL:

Siobhán McQuaid (Trinity College Dublin)



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**Siobhán McQuaid** (Trinity College Dublin) is Associate Director of Innovation at the Centre for Social Innovation, Trinity College Dublin. Her research interests include financing, business models & governance of new solutions to urban sustainability. Trinity College Dublin co-ordinate Connecting Nature, a H2020 action to stimulate city-wide scale-out of nature-based solutions to societal challenges. Previous research projects include FP7 -TURAS -Transitioning to Urban Resilience and Sustainability.



## BIOGRAPHIES:

### SPEAKERS IN THE PANEL:

Marjolein Sterk (Wageningen Environmental Research)



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**Marjolein Sterk** (Wageningen Environmental Research) is researcher at Wageningen Environmental Research (WUR) within the team Climate Resilience. For more than 10 years she works on the development and implementation of resilience in complex systems. Her interests focus on the blue-green environment. Over the years Marjolein has been working on multidisciplinary research and development of diverse Naturebased Solutions to cope with the effects of climate change. Not only from the scientific perspective, but also in communication, project management, business development and lobby.



## BIOGRAPHIES:

### FACILITATOR – INTRODUCTION

Hilde Eggermont (Biodiversa/European Biodiversity Partnership)



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**Hilde Eggermont** (Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences/ Belgian Science Policy Office) is the Strategic Coordinator of the Belgian Biodiversity Platform, a national science-policy interface for biodiversity. Her main area of expertise in science-based policy support at European and international level, and research programming. She is acting Vice-Chair of the BiodivERsA Partnership since 2015 (a Pan-European network of national programmers and funders of biodiversity research); and the newly elected Chair and Coordinator of its successor: the European Biodiversity Partnership under Horizon Europe. Other duties include her role as IPBES National Focal Point; and IUCN Councilor member.



## BIOGRAPHIES:

### FACILITATORS IN BREAKOUT GROUPS



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**Sergio Castellari** (National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology) See above.

**Laura Palomo Rios** (European Commission - European Research Executive Agency) is an environmental expert with a research background on the ecology of estuarine and saltmarsh ecosystems, working both in Europe and in the EEUU. She has also worked with NGOs and international organizations on environmental and climate related issues, supporting the link between research and implementation activities. Since 2015, she has worked with the European Commission (at EASME first and now at the European Research Executive Agency - REA) where she monitors EU funded projects in the area of nature-based solutions and biodiversity and on the links of these topics with climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction.



## BIOGRAPHIES:

### FACILITATORS IN BREAKOUT GROUPS



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**Marianne Zandersen** (Aarhus University and Aarhus University Interdisciplinary Centre for Climate Change - iClimate) is a senior researcher in environmental economics in the Environmental Social Science and Geography Section, Department of Environmental Science, Aarhus University. She has 20 years experience working with research and advisory services across Europe, Africa and Asia. She focuses on environmental and behavioral economics in the fields of urban and peri-urban systems, nature-based solutions, climate change and ecosystem management across different habitats. She is currently the coordinator of the H2020 project 'REGREEN' (2019-2023), the coordinator of Climate Society and Health at the iClimate, PI in Danida funded CREAM project (2019-2024) and project leader in the EEA ETC/CCA. She holds a Ph.D. at Hamburg University and at the International Max Planck Research School on Earth System Modelling (IMPRS-ESM), Germany.