



## Background Note

**Session Topic:** Launch of the Natural Capital Declaration: Perspectives from Senior Executives

**Organizers:** United Nations Environment Programme, Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)  
Global Canopy Programme (GCP)  
Fundacao Getulio Vargas – Centre for Sustainability Studies (FGV-GVces)

**Date:** 16th June 2012

**Time:** 14.00 – 15.30

**Venue:** [Windsor Barra Hotel, Rio de Janeiro](#)

**Moderator:** Richard Burrett – Partner, Earth Capital Partners and Co-chair UNEP FI

**Presenter:** Andrew Mitchell, Director for the Global Canopy Programme

### CEO Panel

- Barbara Krumsiek – Chief Executive Officer, Calvert Investments
- Carlos Frederico Aires Duque – Chief Executive Officer, Infraprev
- Rodrigo Sánchez Mújica – Chief Executive Officer, FIRA Banco de Mexico
- William Bulmer – Director, Environmental, Social and Governance Department, International Finance Corporation (IFC)

### Organization of Panel:

The event will start with a brief presentation by a UNEP FI representative to launch the Natural Capital Declaration (NCD), highlighting which CEOs of financial institutions have signed the NCD and what the process has been that led to the launch during Rio+20. This is followed by a number of presentations from CEOs of endorsing financial institutions highlighting their interest in this initiative and underlying motivations to endorse it. A Q&A session, moderated by Andrew Mitchell – Director, Global Canopy Programme, will focus on what the financial sector can do to better integrate natural capital considerations, alongside other ESG issues, in risk management, financial products and services, accounting and reporting. Moderator and panelists to be seated on the platform/stage together, TV talk-show style. The podium will be used and speakers may use power point presentations.

### Background Concept:

This event witnesses the launch of the Natural Capital Declaration, including the full list of CEOs of financial institutions that have endorsed it, how it has come together, and how leaders in the financial industry see it going forward. While the role of governments remains important to tackle the loss of natural capital, the sheer size of the banking sector and financial and insurance markets highlights the important role the financial sector can play in working towards a more sustainable use of natural capital. The NCD is a private-sector finance response to the Rio+20 conference theme of working towards a green economy. Financial institutions that have endorsed the Declaration voluntarily commit to implement a number of specific activities while calling upon governments to develop the necessary enabling environment. In that sense it is a starting point for the financial community to engage with other similar initiatives already underway among governments and in the wider corporate sector, to develop a future methodology to hardwire and integrate natural capital considerations.

### Objectives:

- Launch the Natural Capital Declaration, including the full list of signatories that have endorsed the NCD at CEO-level.
- Hear first-hand from CEOs why they have endorsed the Natural Capital Declaration.
- What's next after Rio+20 – What is the roadmap to implement the commitments reflected in the NCD?



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**Discussion Questions:**

- Climate change has been recognized as a financially material issue for capital markets, banks and insurance firms. Other environmental issues, such as water scarcity, loss of biodiversity and ecosystem degradation, are only now receiving attention. Do you believe these issues are financially material as well? And how can it affect the business operations of a FI or its balance sheet.
- What can financial institutions do to better integrate natural capital considerations in their strategy and business operations?
- What would you like governments to agree on in Rio with regards to protecting and stimulating sustainable use of natural capital?

**Contact name of the persons organizing session**

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