



Quotes by the global financial sector

United Kingdom

Richard Burrett, Partner in Earth Capital Partners, and Co-Chair of the UNEP Finance Initiative: "As the global financial sector recovers and moves into the post financial crisis era, there is one notion that crystallises before our eyes more acutely than ever: we need to understand systemic risk in a genuinely holistic way. This CEO Briefing underscores the critical natural capital that underpins our economic activity and financial capital. As the finance sector we need to ensure that we operationalise this thinking in the management of investment and lending activities. The CEO Briefing shows why this is the case."

The United States

Barbara J. Krumsiek, President & CEO of Calvert Group, Ltd. and Co-Chair of the UNEP Finance Initiative: "Increasingly finance professionals are realizing the importance of protecting our world's biodiversity resources. As a company specialized in sustainable and responsible investment management, Calvert includes language on biodiversity in our proxy voting guidelines. We encourage other investment companies to implement similar concrete steps into corporate operations and decision-making."

India

Mr. Rana Kapoor, Founder/Managing Director & CEO, YES BANK. "As human kind we consider ourselves to be the pre-dominant species on the planet. From the lens of nature, we are one of many and the most adversarial. At YES BANK, we respect the ecosystem and our role in it. YES BANK's Responsible Banking approach is sensitive to environmental and social impacts as part of sustainable financing. We actively support the UNEP-FI in its vision for a greener world and we were the first Indian bank to become a signatory."

The Netherlands

Ewoud Goudswaard, Managing Director ASN Bank: "This study is an essential step forward in recognising the value of all living organisms and ecosystems for our own well being. This being the year of biodiversity, the business community should publicly embrace its responsibility to protect and restore ecosystem services. ASN Bank, for one, has published its Issue paper on Biodiversity, formulating its investment policy on biodiversity. The UNEP FI CEO Briefings continue to provide guidance to ASN Bank in formulating and implementing this policy. ASN Bank hopes it will do the same for other financial institutions."

The United Kingdom

Colin Melvin, CEO, Hermes Equity Ownership Services Ltd: "The loss of natural capital (including ecosystems, biodiversity and natural resources) has direct and widespread negative effects on financial performance. Climate change and the financial crisis suggest that significant systemic risk requires coordinated policy intervention. The financial markets do not yet understand that many companies face specific risks from disruptions of vital ecosystems through their supply chains and that they need to plan for the impact of new regulation. This provides an investment and engagement opportunity for pension funds and other long term investors, who can encourage companies towards a better understanding and management of the risks and opportunities relating to the protection of natural ecosystems."

Colombia

Eduardo Villar, Chair of the Board, BCSC Bank: "As the world increases its awareness on the importance of nature for society, companies are seeking to operate in a sustainable way in order to protect the environment and the future of humanity. We fully support every initiative providing guidance to companies in the process of learning why biodiversity is important, and how businesses may contribute to its conservation. Knowing and understanding are fundamental to start doing."

Turkey

ORHAN BESKOK, TSKB, Executive Vice President: "Of all species that have existed on earth 99 percent are now extinct. Let us try to do more than our best to practice and promote sustainability in all sectors in the combat against the extinction of species in order to save the remaining one percent."