The Villars Institute Summit

The Villars Institute is a nonprofit foundation dedicated to accelerating the transition to a net zero economy and to restore the health of the planet for all. Located in the Swiss Alps, it is a platform for systemic change and a place for intergenerational collaboration.

The inaugural Villars Institute Summit took place on 15-17 March 2023 at the Villars Palace Hotel with 270 experts, entrepreneurs, investors, and philanthropists representing +200 organizations, including 24 Fellows. The aim of the Summit was to address the climate and biodiversity crises holistically through interdisciplinary cooperation to accelerate systemic change.

The next Villars Institute Summit will take place from the 20-22 March 2024 in Villars-sur-Ollon, Switzerland. An overview of the 2023 program is provided below.
The Mission of the Villars Institute
Introduced by
• Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Chair of the Villars Institute Foundation

The Net Zero and Nature Positive Equation
Presentations by
• Sonia Medina, Executive Director for Climate, Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)
• Cristián Samper, Managing Director and Leader for Nature Solutions at the Bezos Earth Fund
Moderated by
• Nik Gowing, Founder, Thinking the Unthinkable

Changing Mental Models & Impact Metrics
With
• Cameron Hepburn, Professor of Environmental Economics, Oxford University and Director of the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment
• Gunhild A. Stordalen, Founder & Executive Chair, EAT Foundation
• Keith Tuffley, Vice Chairman, Sustainability & Corporate Transitions, Citi
Moderator
• Nik Gowing, Founder, Thinking the Unthinkable

Villars Institute Distinguished Lecture
Presentation by
• Tim Flannery, Globally recognized scientist, explorer, and conservationist
Navigating the Climate Landscape
With
• Sonia Medina, Executive Director for Climate, Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)
• Tim Benton, Research Director, Chatham House
Facilitator
• Carlo Giardinetti, Sustainability Lead, Deloitte Switzerland
Rapporteur
• Olivia Avalos Vilar, Villars Fellow, International School Basel

Navigating the Energy Landscape
With
• Nick Lawson, Head of Low Carbon Strategy, Mercuria Energy Trading, SA
• Jim Watson, Director, UCL Institute of Sustainable Resources
Facilitator
• Claudia Ukonu, Growth Lead, Uplink
Rapporteur
• Finlay Hamilton, Villars Fellow, International School of Geneva

Navigating the Biodiversity Landscape
With
• Emma Woods, Director of Policy, Natural History Museum, London
• Ariana Day Yuen, Founder & CEO, Forested, Ethiopia
Facilitator
• Frederick Fenter, Chief Executive Editor, Frontiers Media SA
Rapporteur
• Adrija Gosh, Villars Fellow, Zurich International School

Navigating the Green Technology Landscape
With
• Royce Dalby, President, Hydrosat
• Johannes le Coutre, Professor, University of New South Wales (UNSW)
Facilitator
• Amanda Ellis, Senior Director (Global Partnerships), Arizona State University Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Lab
Rapporteur
• Kate Chakravarty, Villars Fellow, International School Basel
2023 Program (15-17 March)

Scaling Technology Breakthroughs

With

• **Robert Berendes**, Executive Partner, Flagship Pioneering
• **David Gann**, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Development and External Affairs, Oxford University and Professor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Said Business School
• **Doug Gurr**, Director, Natural History Museum, London

Moderator

• **Meagan Fallone**, Entrepreneur in Residence & Executive Advisor on Climate Justice, Director of Climate Justice, CARE International

Embedding Nature & Food into Climate (A)

With

• **Avery Cohn**, Director, Food & Agriculture, ClimateWorks Foundation
• **Daniel Nepstad**, Executive Director & President, Earth Innovation Institute

Facilitator

• **Ruth Davis**, Advisor, Children’s Investment Fund Foundation

Rapporteur

• **Carlota Ferro**, Villars Fellow, Collège du Léman

Scaling Nature-Based Solutions & Regenerative Agriculture (A)

With

• **Mark Kebo Akaparibo**, Founder, Tele-Bere Green AgroFarms
• **Suzan Craig**, Founder, CEO and Owner, Tahi Estate

Facilitator

• **John Dutton**, Head of Uplink, World Economic Forum

Rapporteur

• **Eloise Westfeldt**, Villars Fellow, Collège du Léman

Deploying Trust-Building Technologies (A)

With

• **Mogens Mathiesen**, Head of Lighthouses, HUB Ocean
• **Adam Niewinski**, Co-Founder & General Partner, OTB Ventures

Facilitator

• **Victoria Attwood Scott**, Global Head of Compliance, Mercuria Energy Trading SA

Rapporteur

• **Jovana Urosevic**, Villars Fellow, Zurich International School
**Embedding Nature & Food into Climate (B)**

With

- **Alexandra Clark**, Founder & Principal, Sentient Ventures
- **Fabrice DeClerck**, Science Director, EAT Foundation

Facilitator

- **Anne-Sophie Stevance**, Senior Science Officer, International Science Council

Rapporteur

- **Carlota Ferro**, Villars Fellow, Collège du Léman

**Scaling Nature Based Solutions & Regenerative Agriculture (B)**

With

- **Rekia Foudel**, Managing Partner and Founder, Barka Fund, Niger
- **Elise Van Middelem**, Founder & CEO, SUGi

Facilitator

- **John Dutton**, Head of Uplink, World Economic Forum

Rapporteur

- **Eloise Westfeldt**, Villars Fellow, Collège du Léman

**Deploying Trust-Building Technologies (B)**

With

- **Agnieszka Lukaszczyk**, Vice President Government Affairs, EMEA, Planet
- **Rowan Fenn**, CEO, Rise-X

Facilitator

- **Thomas Crampton**, SVP and Head of Corporate Affairs, Greenlight Biosciences

Rapporteur

- **Jovana Urosevic**, Villars Fellow, Zurich International School

**Reforming Public Subsidies/Perverse Incentives (B)**

With

- **Jean Philippe Bonardi**, Professor of Strategic Management, University of Lausanne
- **Martin Fraenkel**, Chairman, VAKT Global Ltd.
- **Diane Moody**, Vice President, Organizational Development, DSM
- **Matteo Markel**, Villars Fellow, International School of Zug and Luzern
2023 Program (15-17 March)

Strategies for Systems Leadership
EarthTime Presentation by
• Ilah Nourbakhsh, Professor of Robotics, Director of the Community Robotics, Education and Technology Empowerment (CREATE) lab, Carnegie Mellon University

With
• Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Chair, Villars Institute Foundation
• Patrick Odier, Chairman of the Board, Bank Lombard Odier & Co Ltd.
Moderator
• Gillian Martin Mehers, Founder & CEO, Bright Green Learning

The Agrifood, Biodiversity, and Climate Nexus

With
• Johan Rockström, Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research
• Walter Willett, Professor of Epidemiology and Nutrition, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
• Christina Hicks, Professor, Lancaster University
Moderator
• Dan Esty, Professor, Yale University

Reshaping the Climate Action Narrative

With
• Jean Claude Burgelman, Professor, Frontiers Planet Prize & Free University of Brussels
• Miniya Chatterji, CEO, Sustain Labs Paris
Facilitator
• Mike Hanley, Founder & CEO, The Content Engine
Rapporteur
• Julia Gamyrd, Villars Fellow, Collège du Léman

Reshaping the Energy Transition Narrative

With
• Roberto Bocca, Head of Energy, Materials & Infrastructure, World Economic Forum
• Peter BenHur Nyeko, CEO Mandulis Energy, Uganda
Facilitator
• Marie Laure Schaufelberger, Chief Sustainability Officer, Pictet Group
Rapporteur
• Lavanya Mahendrakumar, Villars Fellow, International School Base
2023 Program (15-17 March)

Reshaping the Nature Action Narrative

With
• Hilde Eggermont, Coordinator, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Science
• Brad Irwin, Head of Global Engagement, Natural History Museum, London

Facilitator
• Thomas Crampton, SVP and Head of Corporate Affairs, Greenlight Biosciences

Rapporteur
• Mathis Lecomte, Villars Fellow, International School of Zug and Luzern

Reshaping the Green Technology Narrative

With
• Florian Reber, Head of Partnerships, Chloris Geospatial
• Franklin Servan-Schreiber, President & Co-Founder, Transmutex SA

Facilitator
• Kelly Vaughan, Director of Digital Strategy, Mercuria Energy Trading SA

Rapporteur
• Milly Bevan, Villars Fellow, International School of Zug and Luzern

Accelerating Systems Change from Villars

With
• Aurelia Figueroa, Global Head of Sustainability, Breitling
• Alexa Firmenich, Co-Director, Crowther Lab, ETH Zurich
• J. Carl Ganter, Managing Director, Circle of Blue

Moderator
• Lee Howell, Executive Director, Villars Institute