



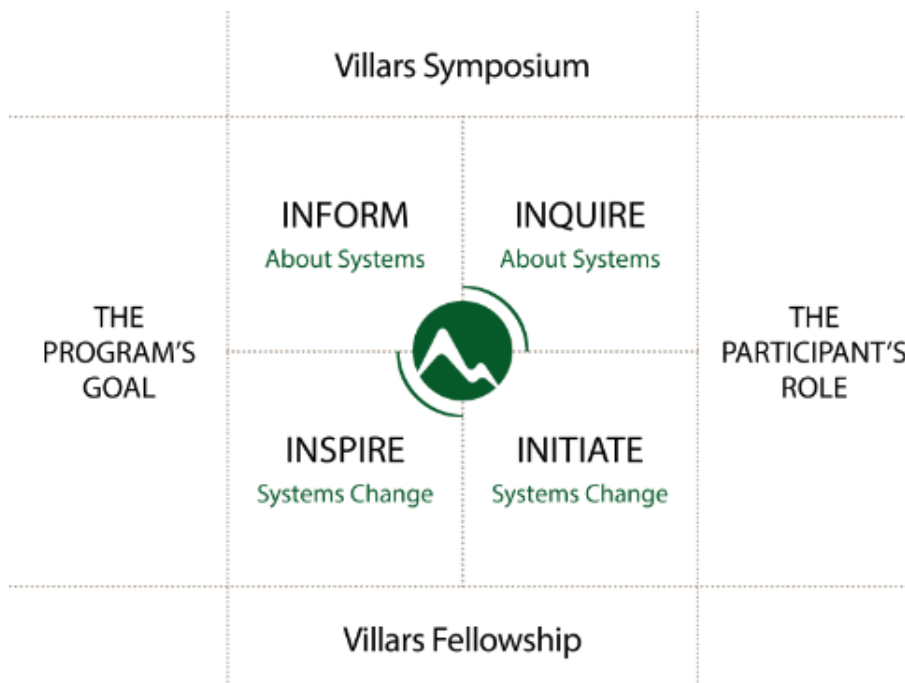
# The Villars Symposium 2024

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 Villars Symposium brings together the creativity of young people with the proficiency of experienced professionals to accelerate the energy transition, nature-based solutions, and emerging technologies.

It is the annual meeting of the Villars Fellows, solution-oriented teenagers nominated each year by educational and leadership organizations from around the world.

The next Villars Symposium will take place from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2025 in Villars-sur-Ollon, Switzerland. An overview of the 2024 program is provided below.



# 2024 Program (25-28 June)

## The mission of the Villars Institute

Opening Remarks from

- **Julia Marton-Lefèvre**, Chair, The Villars Institute
- **Emma Benameur**, Head of Programming, The Villars Institute

Moderated by

- **Nik Gowing**, Founder, Thinking the Unthinkable



## Objectives of the Villars Symposium and the ambition of the Villars Fellowship

With

- **Lee Howell**, Executive Director, The Villars Institute

## The 4th Villars Institute Distinguished Lecture

By

- **Subra Suresh**, chair at the Villars Institute Board, President of the Global Learning Council, Professor at Large at Brown University and Vannevar Bush Professor of Engineering Emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Introduced by

- **Julia Marton-Lefèvre**, Chair, The Villars Institute



## Global Ecological Shift: Restoring Biodiversity for Nature and Humanity

With

- **Thomas Crowther**, Professor of Ecology, ETH Zurich

Moderated by

- **Nik Gowing**, Founder, Thinking the Unthinkable

## The Future of Problem Solving in an AI Infused World

With

### Winners of the 2024 Global Learning Council (GLC)-HP Hackathon:

- Aditya Punia & Sarthak Rawat, Dronacharya College of Engineering, Bengaluru, India
- Prince Manzi, Aline Munezero, Bonheur Niyonkuru, Kayonza Modern, Kigali, Rwanda
- Maxwell Opondo, Strathmore University, Nairobi, Kenya
- Lexi Syoluka, Strathmore University, Nairobi, Kenya
- Nicholas Kessler, Kantonsschule Wohlen, Zürich, Switzerland

Moderated by

- **Christine Looser**, Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships, Minerva Project



## Understanding the Value of Biodiversity and Nature Restoration

With

- **Marco Lambertini**, Convener, Nature Positive Initiative
- **Suzan Craig**, Founder and CEO of TAHI, and Board Member of The Villars Institute
- **Julia Marton-Lefèvre**, Chair, The Villars Institute

## Understanding the Global Energy Transition

With

- **David Gann**, Chairman, UK Industrial Fusion Solutions Ltd. and Vice-Chair of The Villars Institute
- **Meagan Fallone**, Executive Adviser on Climate Justice, CARE USA
- **Nicholas Lawson**, MD, Head of Low Carbon Strategy, Mercuria Group



## Understanding How Geospatial Technologies Protect Our Planet

With

- **Alana Belcon**, Manager, Education Solutions EMEA, Planet Labs
- **Shubo Biswas**, CEO and Founder, Greengood Labs
- **Walter Jetz**, Professor of Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, and the Environment, Yale University; Director, Yale Center for Biodiversity and Global Change
- **Marija Uzunova Dang**, Vice Principal, Learning Innovation, United World Colleges (UWC)



## The Role of Education as a Catalyst for Sustainability

With

- **Kevin House**, Education Futures Architect, Education in Motion
- **Peter Schlosser**, Vice President and Vice Provost of Global Futures, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory, Arizona State University
- **Barry Dequanne**, School Director, The International School of Zug and Luzern
- **Suzanne Walsh**, President, Bennett College



## Frontiers Planet Prize Award Ceremony 2024

With

- **Kamila Markram**, Chief Executive Officer, Frontiers
- **Johan Rockström**, Director, Potsdam Institute of Climate Research Impact
- **Jean-Claude Burgelman**, Director, Frontiers Research Foundation
- Each International Champion on their award-winning research

## Frontiers Planet Prize Plenary Session: No Time to Lose

With

- **Salvatore Aricò**, Chief Executive Officer, International Science Council
- **Johan Rockström**, Director, Potsdam Institute of Climate Impact Research
- **Massamba Thioye**, Project Executive, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- **Sandrine Dixon-Declève**, Co-President, Club of Rome
- **John Bell**, Healthy Planet Director, European Commission
- **Celine Abecassis-Moedas**, Dean for Executive Education & Professor, Universidade Catolica Portuguesa
- **Nicole Schwab**, Co-Head, Nature Positive, World Economic Forum



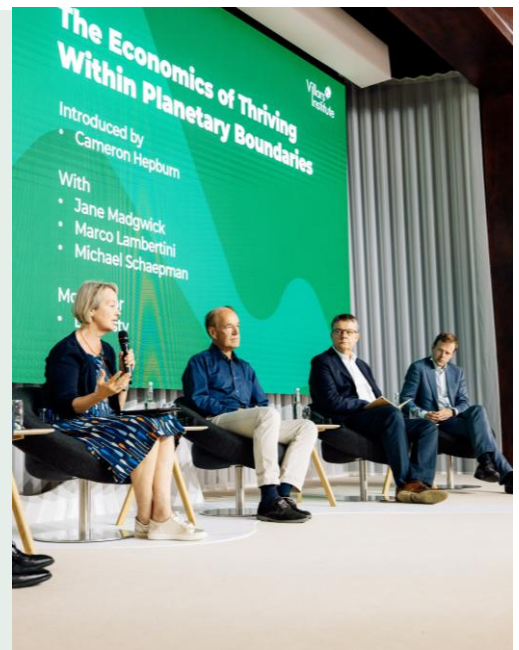
## The Economics of Thriving Within Planetary Boundaries

With

- **Cameron Hepburn**, Battcock Professor of Environmental Economics, University of Oxford
- **Jane Madgwick**, Executive Director, Global Commons Alliance
- **Marco Lambertini**, Convener, Nature Positive Initiative
- **Michael Schaepman**, President, University of Zurich

Moderated by

- **Dan Esty**, Hillhouse Professor of Environmental Law & Policy, Yale School of the Environment and Yale Law School



## Biosphere Integrity: Safeguarding our Planet's Biodiversity

With

- **Dr Pedro Jaureguiberry**, Researcher, Instituto Multidisciplinario de Biología Vegetal
- **Prof Evan Economo**, Professor, Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology
- **Dr Francesco Maria Sabatini**, Senior Assistant Professor, Università di Bologna
- **Dr Marta Kozicka**, Research Scholar, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
- **Dr Ellen Welti**, Ecologist, Conservation Ecology Center
- **Dr Imke Rajamani**, Manager Director, Hamburg Sustainability Conference



## Climate Change: Pathways to a Net Zero Future

With

- **Dr Umberto Berardi**, Professor and Canada Researcher Chair, Toronto Metropolitan University
- **Dr Yang Ou**, Assistant Professor, Peking University
- **Dr Daniel Muth**, Research Associate, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam,
- **Prof Dr Mustafa Sahmaran**, Professor, Hacettepe University, research article
- **Dr Claire McNulty**, Executive Director, Europe and the Middle East, National Geographic Society







## Novel Entities: Reducing the Impact of Plastics and Pollutants

With

- **Dr Federico Maggi**, Associate Professor, The University of Sydney
- **Prof Dr Alexander Turra**, Professor, University of São Paulo
- **Prof Dr Peter Haase**, Professor, University of Duisburg-Essen
- **Gabriela Ivan**, Membership Development Officer, International Science Council

## Land System Change: Managing our Land for Planet Prosperity

With

- **Prof Minik Rosing**, Professor, University of Copenhagen
- **Dr Olga Tammeorg**, Scientific Researcher, University of Helsinki
- **Prof Dr Gabriela Schaepman-Strub**, Associate Professor, University of Zürich
- **Paul Behrens**, Associate Professor, Leiden University
- **Prof Dr Krithi Karanth**, Chief Conservation Scientist and CEO, Centre for Wildlife Studies



## Freshwater Change: Preserving our Planet's Freshwater

With

- **Dr Petra Holden**, Researcher, University of Cape Town
- **Prof Carlos Peres**, Professor, University of East Anglia
- **Dr Gerard Rocher-Ros**, Researcher, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
- **Dr Rebecca Gladstone-Gallagher**, Post-doctoral Research Fellow, University of Auckland
- **Monica Granados**, Assistant Director, Creative Commons

## Biosphere Integrity: Safeguarding Our Oceans

With

- **Dr Mia Strand**, Postdoctoral Researcher, Nelson Mandela University
- **Prof Stephen Widdicombe**, Director of Science, Plymouth Marine Laboratory
- **Prof Raquel Peixoto**, Associate Professor, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology
- **Laura Henderson**, Head of Program, Frontiers for Young Minds





## Putting Communities at the Heart of Nature and Climate Action

With

- **Jaideep Bansal**, Chief Executive Officer, Global Himalayan Expedition Impact Ventures
- **Jon Duncan**, Chief Impact Officer, Reyl Group
- **Prof Dr Krithi Karanth**, Chief Conservation Scientist and CEO, Centre for Wildlife Studies
- **Rashid Sumaila**, Professor of Ocean and Fisheries Economics, University of British Columbia, and co-recipient of the 2023 Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement

Moderated by

- **Jade Hameister**, Youth Advisor, The Villars Institute

## How Sustainable Finance Scales Systems Change

With

- **Karen Wilson**, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, GV Partners
- **Cameron Hepburn**, Battcock Professor of Environmental Economics, University of Oxford



## How the Multilateral System Enables Planetary Progress

With

- **Jonas Haertle**, Chief, Office of the Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research
- **Marie-Claire Graf**, Co-Founder, Youth Negotiators Academy

## Building the Fast-Track Trajectories Coalition for a Sustainable Future

With

- **Peter Schlosser**, Vice-President and Vice-Provost, Global Futures Laboratory



## How Digital Engagement Enables Systems Change

With

- **Rhett Butler**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Mongabay
- **Tim Kim**, Product Lead, ITZA



## The Journey of a Young Systems Leader

With

- **Jade Hameister**, Youth Advisor, The Villars Institute
- **Sage Lenier**, Climate Activist and Founder & Executive Director, Sustainable and Just Future



## How Filming the Natural World Can Drive Systems Change

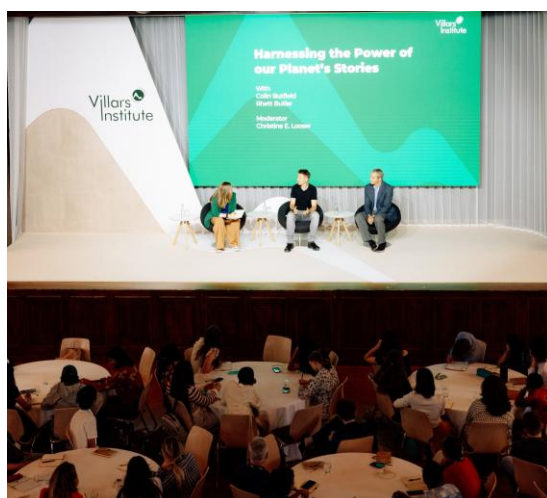
With

- **Emily Renshaw-Smith**, Executive Director of Operations, Open Planet
- **Ed Charles**, Lead Producer, Studio Silverback

## Scaling Innovation for Sustainable Development

With

- **Lionel Artusio-Payot**, Co-Founder, Zebra Impact Ventures
- **Allison Voss**, Innovation Ecosystem Lead for Nature, UpLink, World Economic Forum



## Harnessing the Power of our Planet's Stories

With

- **Colin Butfield**, Co-Founder & Executive Director, Studio Silverback
- **Rhett Butler**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Mongabay

Moderated by

- **Christine E. Looser**, Director, Solution Design, Minerva Project

## Film Screening - "Mongolia, The Valley of the Bears"

2023 Grand Prix Winner, Festival International du Film Alpin des Diablerets







## Accelerating Change: The Rise of the Ecopreneur

With

- **Jean-Claude Burgelman**, Director, Frontiers Research Foundation
- **Sofi Khwaja-Horekens**, Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Thesus
- **Ameer Shakeel**, Founder & CTO, Agrospheres
- **Barney Swan**, CEO, Climate Force

Moderated by

- **David Gann**, Chairman, UK Industrial Fusion Solutions Ltd. and Vice-Chair of the Board, The Villars Institute

## Defining Pathways for Impact (Group A)

With

- **Emily Renshaw-Smith**, Executive Director of Operations, Open Planet
- **Colin Butfield**, Co-Founder & Executive Director, Studio Silverback
- **Tim Kim**, Product Lead, ITZA
- **Jan Dijkstra**, Sustainability Lead, International School of Geneva
- **Nora Wilhelm**, Founder, Parayma



## Defining Pathways for Impact (Group B)

With

- **Loukia Psaraki**, Head of Communications, The Earth Foundation
- **Nadeem Nathoo**, Founder, The Knowledge Society
- **Emma Benameur**, Head of Programming, The Villars Institute

## Defining Pathways for Impact (Group C)

With

- **Milly Bevan**, Villars Fellow 2022, International School of Zug and Luzern (ISZL)
- **Zlata Shama**, Villars Fellow 2022, International School of Geneva
- **Dan Jacob**, Chief Executive Officer, DJ Advisory





## Defining Pathways for Impact (Group D)

With

- **Jaideep Bansal**, Chief Executive Officer, Global Himalayan Expedition Impact Ventures
- **Alana Belcon**, Manager, Education Solutions EMEA, Planet Labs
- **Lee Howell**, Executive Director, The Villars Institute

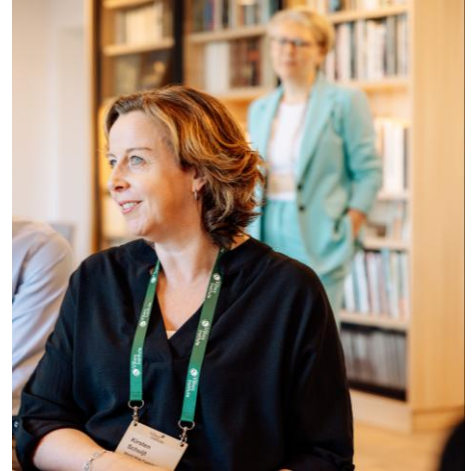
## A Pathway for Protecting Our Planet

With

- **Marie-Claire Graf**, Co-Founder, Youth Negotiators Academy
- **Peter Schlosser**, Vice President and Vice Provost of Global Futures, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory, Arizona State University
- **Kirsten Schuijt**, Director General, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

Moderated by

- **Jade Hameister**, Youth Advisor, The Villars Institute



## Accelerating Systems Change from Villars

With

- **Lee Howell**, Executive Director, The Villars Institute
- **Julia Marton-Lefèvre**, Chair, The Villars Institute
- **Keith Tuffley**, Polar & Oceans Explorer, and Board Member, The Villars Institute

## Guided Mountain Nature Walk





# Villars Symposium - Plenary Sessions

