

## What are the possible ways/tools to regenerate ecosystems and restore our links to the living ?

**Speakers :** **Tim Christophersen**, Coordinator of the ‘Nature for Climate’ Branch at UN Environment, and focal point for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030

**David Obura**, Founding Director of CORDIO East Africa, Mombasa, Kenya

**Berglind Orradóttir**, Deputy Director of the GRÓ Land Restoration Training Programme, GRÓ International Centre for Capacity Development, Sustainable use of Natural Resources and Societal Change, Reykjavik, Iceland.

**Sir Tim Smit**, Co-founder of Eden Project, Bodelva, Cornwall, UK

**Moderator:** **Noëline Raondry Rakotoarisoa**

Chief of Section Biosphere Network and capacity building

Man and Biosphere Programme

Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences, UNESCO

### Tim Christophersen



Tim Christophersen is the Coordinator of the ‘Nature for Climate’ Branch at UN Environment, and focal point for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030. He holds a degree in Forestry and Forest Conservation Engineering from Dresden University of Technology. He previously worked for the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), where he led the portfolio on the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity. From 2002-2007 he was Regional Programme Coordinator for Europe, the Caucasus and the Commonwealth of Independent States at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). He also worked for the Danish Ministry of the Environment at the Research Institute for Forest and Landscapes, and for the European Commission in the Nature and Biodiversity Unit.

## David Obura



David Obura is a Founding Director of CORDIO East Africa, a knowledge organization supporting Sustainability of coral reef and marine systems in the Western Indian Ocean. CORDIO takes research to management and policy, builds capacity, and works with stakeholders, managers and policy makers.

David's primary research is on coral reef resilience, in particular to climate change, and the biogeography of the Indian Ocean. At the boundary between science and action, David works to integrate conservation and development through inclusive blue economy principles and links provided by global sustainability goals and targets. He works from the local scale, through fostering innovative action to promote sustainability, through regional scale alignment and integration such as in the Northern Mozambique Channel, to global scales of bringing knowledge and local-regional practice into decision-making circles. 2020 will be a critical year for ocean, biodiversity and climate targets in global conventions, and David Obura is engaged in multiple processes to bring coral reef science and learning into these global fora.

## Berglind Orradóttir



Berglind Orradóttir is the Deputy Director of the GRÓ Land Restoration Training Programme, one of four Programmes belonging to the GRÓ International Centre for Capacity Development, Sustainable use of Natural Resources and Societal Change, a Category 2 Center under the auspices of UNESCO.

She is also Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Environmental and Forest Sciences, Agricultural University of Iceland. She has participated in extensive research projects, other professional experience include designing and supervising online course material, lecturing and supervising. She holds a M.Sc. degree in Rangeland Ecology and Management from Texas A&M University and a B.Sc. in Biology from the University of Iceland.

## **Sir Tim Smit**



Sir Tim Smit is an Archaeologist and anthropologist. He worked as a music producer and composer for ten years, before becoming the Co-Founder of the Eden Project. In June 2012, he was appointed Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE) by Her Majesty the Queen.

Described as the eighth wonder of the world by The Times, the Eden Project opened in 2001 in Cornwall, UK. It is the largest greenhouse project in the world. Built on the site of a former mine, The Eden Project aimed to show the capacity of nature to regenerate a derelict sterile site and the potential of humans to recreate fertility as a symbol of hope. Today, the site is home to more than a million plant species in two biomes including tropical rainforest and mediterranean . It also houses an educational centre "The Core" where environmental sustainability is taught. Sir Tim Smit is also Executive Co Chair for Eden Project International, which aims to have an Eden Project on every inhabited continent by 2025.