



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.



2023 Program (15-17 March)

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



Villars Institute Distinguished Lecture

Presentation by

- **Tim Flannery**, Globally recognized scientist, explorer, and conservationist



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



2023 Program (15-17 March)

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 Ukou**, 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, Saïd 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



2023 Program (15-17 March)

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 Middlelem**, 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. Facilitator
- **Diane Moody**, Vice President, Organizational Development, DSM

Rapporteur

- **Matteo Markel**, Villars Fellow, International School of Zug and Luzern



2023 Program (15-17 March)

Strategies for Systems Leadership

EarthTime Presentation by

- **Illah 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



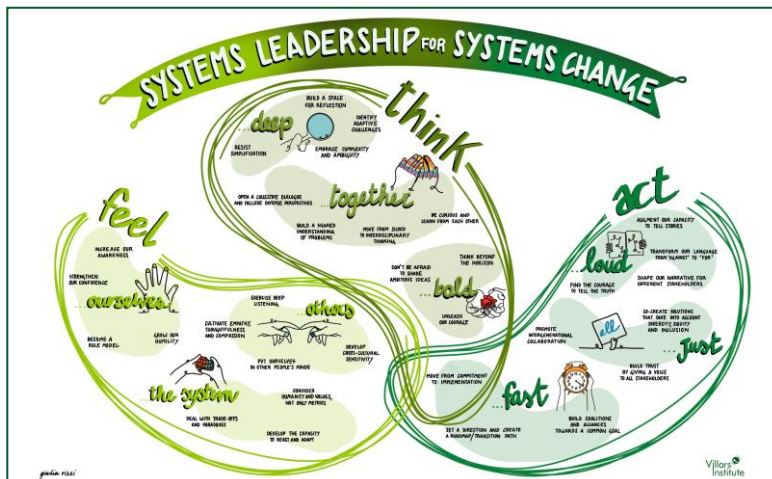
Accelerating Systems Change from Villars

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



Villars Summit - Plenary Sessions

