

## Alex Dehgan Co-founder, Conservation X Labs

Dr. Alex Dehgan is the CEO and co-founder of Conservation X Labs, an innovation and technology startup focused on conservation. Conservation X Labs both builds new technologies for addressing the underlying drivers of extinction and harnesses open innovation and mass collaboration to attract new solvers and new solutions. Alex is also a professor of the practice of Sustainability and a Global Futures Fellow at Arizona State University. He previously served as the chief scientist at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Alex founded and led the Office of Science and Technology, and created the vision for and helped stand up the Global Development Lab. Prior to USAID, Alex worked in multiple positions in the U.S. State Department, including overseas service under the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, using science to support bilateral diplomacy, including Arab-Israeli relations, engagement with Iran, through leading the science aspects of President Obama's Cairo Initiative.

Alex was the founding country director of the Wildlife Conservation Society Afghanistan Program and helped create Afghanistan's first national park. Alex is the author of the book, "The Snow Leopard Project," which describes the effort; the book was selected by the journal Nature's book editor as one of the top five science books of 2019. Alex holds a PhD in Evolutionary Biology from The University of Chicago and a JD from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.



## Mercedes Bustamante Ecologist and professor, University of Brasilia

Mercedes Bustamante is a professor at the University of Brasilia, member of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences and currently one of the main references in the Cerrado biome. She researches in the area of ecology of ecosystems, in particular in themes related to changes in land use, biogeochemistry and global environmental changes. She was co-coordinator of the chapter on "Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses" of Working Group III: Mitigation for the 5th Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Internationally, Mercedes was a member of the scientific committee responsible for reviewing the U.N. Environment Programme report on nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), representative for Latin America in the International Nitrogen Initiative (2010-2013) and member of the scientific committee of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program from 2007 to 2012 and the Biosphere-Atmosphere Program in the Amazon. In scientific and educational policy management, she has contributed as general coordinator of ecosystem management and director of policies and thematic programs in the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (2010-2013), director of Brazilian programs and scholarships for Coordination of Personnel Development and member of the advisory committee of the ecology and limnology of CNPq.

Mercedes completed her master's degree at the University of Viçosa in the area of Agricultural Sciences in 1988 and her PhD in Geobotany at the Universitaet Trier (Germany) in 1993.



## Helga Flores Trejo Vice president public affairs international organizations, Bayer

Helga Flores Trejo is a foreign policy and development expert who has worked in government, international organizations, think tanks and the private sector. As VP, Head, International Public Affairs, Helga is responsible for driving Bayer's relations and partnerships with international organizations, such as U.N. agencies and multilateral development banks, and key networks such as the World Economic Forum, G20 and others. Helga also manages multilateral policy, including trade.

Prior to joining Bayer, she led open innovation at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), in charge of establishing and maintaining strategic partnerships to foster innovation to solve development challenges. Previously, she was head of external relations for the Inter-American Investment Corporation known today as BID Invest. At the IDB Group, she held diverse positions, including chief of the Constituencies Unit, head of Strategic Communications for Sectors and advisor on External Relations in Brazil for the Representative of the IDB.



## (continued) Flores Trejo

Helga served as executive director of the Heinrich Böll Foundation, promoting transatlantic policy exchange on sustainable development, climate change and global security. She has served as chief of staff for the Bundesrat and European Affairs minister of the Government of Hamburg, as senior advisor for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and as advisor on development policy and Latin America in the German Parliament (Bundestag).

## Soumya Swaminathan Chief scientist, World Health Organization

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan was appointed WHO's first chief scientist in March 2019. A pediatrician from India and a globally recognized researcher on tuberculosis and HIV, she brings with her 30 years of experience in clinical care and research and has worked throughout her career to translate research into impactful programs. Her vision is to ensure that WHO is at the cutting edge of science and is able to translate new knowledge into meaningful impact on population health worldwide.

Dr. Swaminathan was secretary to the Government of India for Health Research and director general of the Indian Council of Medical Research from 2015 to 2017. In that position, she focused on bringing science and evidence into health policy making, building research capacity in Indian medical schools and forging south-south partnerships in health sciences. From 2009 to 2011, she served as coordinator of the UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases in Geneva.

She received her academic training in India, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and she has published more than 350 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters. She is an elected foreign fellow of the U.S. National Academy of Medicine and a fellow of all three science academies in India.



## Lisa Palmer [moderator] National Geographic Research Professor at George Washington University, journalist, and author

Lisa Palmer is a National Geographic Research Professor at George Washington University (GWU), journalist, and author of "Hot, Hungry Planet: The Fight to Stop a Global Food Crisis in the Face of Climate Change." At GWU, she teaches science communication for science and sustainability majors and science reporting for undergraduate journalism majors and minors. She is also senior editor and education lead for Planet Forward, GWU's award-winning project of the Center for Innovative Media at the School of Media and Public Affairs.

Palmer engages in the national and international discourse on science and socio-environmental issues through writing and publishing, speaking, contributing to digital media, and offering analysis and science communications strategy to research teams. She has written for many publications, including Nature, Yale E360, The Guardian, Nautilus, The New York Times, The New Republic, Ensia, Slate and many others.

Previously, Palmer was a public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C., where she conducted research on global food security, resilience and policies related to sustainable agriculture. In 2018, the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center awarded her a residency on the theme of science for development. She is a member of the Society of Environmental Journalists, the National Association of Science Writers and the D.C. Science Writers Association. She graduated from Boston University and Simmons College in Boston.

