

Expert Committee on Environment and Climate Change

Convenor - Olav Kjørven, Assistant Secretary-General and Director of Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP

Olav Kjørven is the Assistant Secretary-General and Director of Bureau for Development Policy at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). From 2005-2007 Olav led UNDP's Environment and Energy Group, promoting sound environmental management & access to energy for poverty reduction and tapping into new financial mechanisms for development such as carbon finance. Prior to joining UNDP, from 2001 to 2005, Olav served the Government of Norway as State Secretary for International Development. Together with the Minister of International Development, Olav was responsible for policy making and the overall management of Norwegian international development efforts. He also held the post of Political Adviser to the Minister of International Development and Human Rights (1997-2000). Olav has also worked as Director of International Development at ECON--Centre for Economic Analysis in Oslo (2000-2001) and an Environmental Specialist at the World Bank (1992-1997). He holds a Master of Arts in International Affairs from George Washington University.

UN Experts:

Kaveh Zahedi, Senior Advisor on Programme Coordination in the Office of the Executive Director, UNEP

Kaveh Zahedi has worked for UNEP for over twelve years, at its headquarters in Kenya, at the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and at the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge, UK. Prior to joining UNEP, he worked at an NGO in the UK as project manager for projects in Latin America and the Middle East. He holds an MA from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University and a BSc (Econ.) from University College London.

Independent Experts:

Roberto Lenton, Chair, Technical Committee of the Global Water Partnership

Roberto Lenton also serves as Senior Advisor for International Development at the IRI and Co-chair of the Millennium Project Task Force on Water and Sanitation. Through July 2003, he was Executive Director of the IRI Secretariat for International Affairs and Development. Prior to joining the IRI, he was Director of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Division (SEED) at UNDP in New York where he was responsible for setting policy in natural resources, energy and environment; developing and managing global programs in these areas; overseeing special programs in drylands management and capacity building for sustainable development; and supervising UNDP's activities as implementing agency for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Montreal Protocol.

Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Regional Vice-President and Conservation Biodiversity Center
Regional Director to México and Central America for Conservation International Foundation

Carlos Manuel Rodriguez served first as Vice-Minister then Minister of Environment and Energy for the Government of Costa Rica. He has also held positions as Deputy Director for the National Park Service and consultant to the Inter-American Development Agency, Inter-American Development Bank, World Resources Institute, Greenpeace, Oregon University, Environmental Law Institute, Wildlife Foundation (Argentina), Cordavi (Ecuador), National Parks Foundation (Costa Rica) and the Central American Commission for Environment and Development.

Stephen Bass, Senior Fellow at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

Stephen Bass has chaired or served on boards and advisory committees for the Royal Institution for International Affairs (Chatham House), UNEP, WWF-UK, Shell Canada, Oxford University, the World Economic Forum, the Asa Wright Nature Centre, and the Darwin Initiative. Until recently, he was Chief Environment Adviser at the UK Department for International Development (DFID). He is a forester and environmental scientist with 25 years experience, principally in Southern Africa, Southern Asia and the Caribbean, and in international policy processes. He holds degrees from Oxford and Manchester Universities in Forestry, Agricultural Sciences and Landscape Planning.
