

ISSUE 1 / SPRING 2022

FUTURE

BUILDING A BETTER WORLD TOGETHER

CELEBRATING SUSTAINABILITY EXCELLENCE

**THE SOFIDEL 3SAWARDS SALUTES
SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAINS**

ALSO FEATURING INSIGHT FROM:

- **TOM RIVETT CARNAC**
- **SUNITA NARAIN**
- **CARLOS NOBRE**

INDEX



SPOTLIGHT

04 A celebration of sustainability excellence in the supply chain
The Sofidel 2021 3SAwards on Monday 6 December 2021 may have been a virtual event, but its celebratory spirit was tangible and its message of supporting sustainability excellence in the supply chain, powerful. Michael Jones reports on an awards ceremony with a difference



PLANET

06 The good fight
Carlos Nobre believes the destruction of the Amazon forest leaves the planet at a tipping point – but it's not too late to prevent disaster

10 Forging ethical, supply chains
An interview with Katrine Vetaas Vedeler, former Director Responsible Supply Chain for KPMG in Norway

14 Man on a mission
An interview with Saleemul Huq, director of the International Center for Climate Change and Development in Dhaka, Bangladesh

18 A call to action on climate change
An interview with Tom Rivett Carnac, co-founder of Global Optimism



SUCCESS STORIES

22 With advances made at COP26, now is the time for action
An interview with Walter Schalka, CEO of Suzano

24 Sofidel 2021 3SAwards winners: Plastylenia
Plastylenia's Francesco Stenta on reducing the use of virgin plastic in packaging

25 Sofidel 2021 3SAwards winners: Kuehne+Nagel
Kuehne+Nagel's Ave Crotti on how it has made sustainability part of its DNA

26 Sofidel 2021 3SAwards winners: Capp Plast
Adriano Baldi on how Capp Plast is championing refugees in the workforce

27 Sofidel 2021 3SAwards winners: PETROFER
Thomas Brandenburger on Petrofer's pioneering social sustainability project



PEOPLE

28 The inclusion conclusion
Areta Sobieraj, head of education, Oxfam Italia, addresses why diversity and inclusion must be essential for this – and any – organization

32 Future-gazing: sustainability trends for a changing world
An interview with renowned futurist Rohit Talwar, CEO of Fast Future, on long-term sustainability drivers and scenarios for a post-pandemic planet

36 Sunita Narain: India's leading light of sustainability
In profile: Sunita Narain, Director-General at Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) in New Delhi, India, on why she believes in action that benefits all people in all countries



WELCOME TO THE FUTURE

At Sofidel Group, we take pride in being responsible custodians of the planet across our entire supply chain. For us, that means respecting the resources we use and the people we work with, always. It is the reason we decided to launch our new *Future* online magazine, which showcases engaging stories that focus on sustainability around the world.

Now also here in print, you can read the views of some of the world's leading sustainability figures, including Tom Rivett Carnac, Co-Founder, Global Optimism; Sunita Narain, Director General, Centre for Science and Environment (CSE); Saleemul Huq, Director of the International Center for Climate Change and Development; and Brazilian meteorologist Dr. Carlos Nobre.

We also hear from Katrine Vetaas Vedeler, former Director of Responsible Supply Chain for KPMG; Areta Sobieraj, Head of Education, Oxfam Italia; and renowned futurist Rohit Talwar, CEO of Fast Future.

You can also read case-studies from the award-winning suppliers whose compelling examples of sustainability excellence in the supply chain wowed judges at the 2021 3SAwards.

Enjoy the read – and here's to a bright Future.

ANDREA PIAZZOLLA
CHIEF PURCHASING
OFFICER,
SOFIDEL GROUP

A CELEBRATION OF SUSTAINABILITY EXCELLENCE IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN

The Sofidel 2021 3SAwards on Monday 6 December 2021 may have been a virtual event, but its celebratory spirit was tangible and its message of supporting sustainability excellence in the supply chain, powerful



The 2021 3SAwards winners

Timely, pertinent, and pragmatic, the overall theme of the fourth Sofidel Suppliers Sustainability Awards (3SAwards) hosted virtually on Monday 6 December 2021, was ‘Clean it up!’ The tagline, ‘From a Clean Company to a Clean Living’, neatly encapsulated an international awards event that was created “to encourage, disseminate, enhance, and reward best practices and improvements” made by Sofidel Group’s suppliers in the field of social and environmental sustainability. The three past editions of the awards took place in Lucca, Italy (on the occasion of the Sofidel Group’s 50th Anniversary in 2016), in London, UK (2017), and in Columbus, Ohio, US (2018). The 2021 Awards saw suppliers from across Sofidel’s global supply chain submit projects that champion sustainability excellence for the consideration of a Technical Evaluation Committee comprised of representatives from UN Global Compact Network Italy Foundation, Sodalitas Foundation, SGS Italy, and WWF Italy.

A SERIOUS MESSAGE
Keynote speakers at the 2021 3SAwards included political lobbyist and esteemed author on climate change policy, Tom Rivett-Carnac, and American climate change activist and author Katharine K. Wilkinson, one of *Time* magazine’s ‘15 Women Who Will Save the World’. Hosts, TV presenter Tim Shaw and Sofidel Group’s Chief Purchasing Officer Andrea Piazzolla, set a relaxed and humorous tone from the outset, punctuated with serious messaging

throughout, and with many examples of Sofidel’s own pioneering sustainability work. But, suppliers were very much front and center during the awards. In his opening address, Sofidel Group CEO Luigi Lazzareschi, spoke directly to the company’s supplier community, making it clear that while it is, “always a privilege to welcome our suppliers, this time at the 2021 3SAwards there is something more to it. We feel very strongly that this period can and should be a time of rebirth; a time to look to the future

“ONLY THROUGH FULLY COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS AND SHARED GOALS IS IT POSSIBLE TO EFFECTIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO SOLVING THE PROBLEMS CONCERNING OUR WAYS OF PRODUCING, CONSUMING, AND LIVING. AN APPROACH WHEREBY, THROUGH THIS 3SAWARD, WE DEMAND EVEN MORE OF OUR PARTNERS, ESPECIALLY REGARDING THE BATTLE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE REDUCTION OF POLLUTION FROM PLASTIC”

with confidence. To solve problems that we can no longer postpone after COP26. The whole world is more aware than ever of the urgent issues humanity has to face. I’m very pleased to join forces with you to make change and to start building a better world. We are really proud to work with you.”

The 3SAwards have become, said Lazzareschi, “real models of exchange and comparison to reach each other and continue to improve everyone’s shared experiences.”

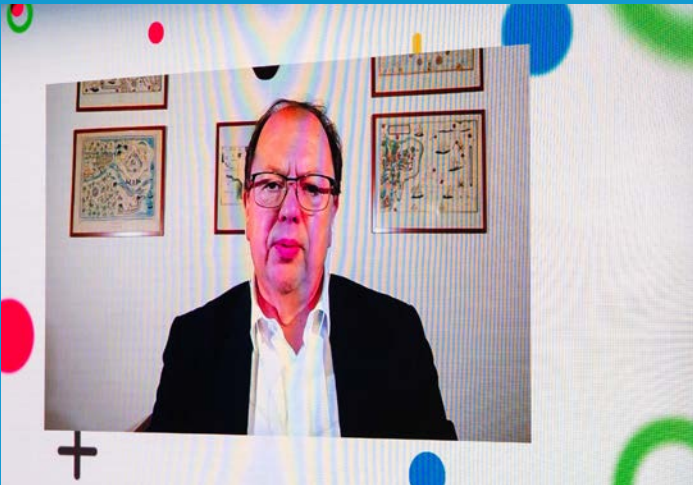
Sharing and collaboration said Piazzolla, “are the key words that we emphasize to all our suppliers around the world: only through fully collaborative relationships and shared goals is it possible to effectively contribute to solving

“THIS PERIOD CAN AND SHOULD BE A TIME OF REBIRTH; A TIME TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE. TO SOLVE PROBLEMS THAT WE CAN NO LONGER POSTPONE AFTER COP26. THE WHOLE WORLD IS MORE AWARE THAN EVER OF THE URGENT ISSUES HUMANITY HAS TO FACE”

the problems concerning our ways of producing, consuming, and living. An approach whereby, through this 3SAward, we demand even more of our partners, especially regarding the battle against climate change and the reduction of pollution from plastic.” ■



The Awards hosts in action



Left: Luigi Lazzareschi, CEO, Sofidel Group

THE CATEGORIES; THE WINNERS

The award winners themselves represented the broad breadth of Sofidel’s supply chain and showcased ten outstanding examples of social and environmental sustainability in action. Below are the three award categories, along with this year’s winners:

THE BEST SUPPLIER: For suppliers that have attained the highest score on the basis of the ‘TenP Paper’ (the prequalification system of Sofidel’s suppliers based on the Ten Principles of the Global Compact of the United Nations) self-assessment platform:
Pulp Producer category: Metsä Fibre
Procurement and Purchasing category: Henkel
Logistics Services category: Trans Italia

THE BEST IMPROVER: For suppliers that have significantly increased their score

on the above-mentioned self-assessment platform:
Pulp Producer category: Arauco
Procurement and Purchasing category: Print Pro
Logistics Services category: Ewals Cargo Care

THE BEST SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT:
For suppliers that have implemented a particularly effective and innovative environmental or social sustainability project:
Large Enterprises, Environmental Responsibility: Kuehne+Nagel
Large Enterprises, Social Responsibility: Capp Plast and Petrofer (joint winners)
Medium/Small Enterprises, Environmental Responsibility: Plastylenia

A KEYNOTE ON KEY PRIORITIES

The 2021 3SAwards saw some outstanding speakers during the ceremony. Before his keynote, **Tom Rivett-Carnac**, founding partner of Global Optimism, co-presenter of climate podcast, Outrage + Optimism, and co-author of *The Future We Choose: The Stubborn Optimist’s Guide to the Climate Crisis* praised Sofidel’s own “commitment to science-based targets” before delivering a speech that implored businesses across global supply chains “to take bold action” on climate change. “Your transparency on your commitment is going to be more important for showing that you’re serious about this as well as for convincing others,” he said.



THE GOOD FIGHT

Brazilian meteorologist **Dr. Carlos Nobre** has been studying the Amazon rainforest for decades. He tells Michael Jones that the destruction of the forest leaves the whole planet at a tipping point – but that it’s not too late to prevent disaster



On 2 November 2021 at the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland, more than 100 world leaders pledged to end – and crucially reverse – deforestation by 2030. The announcement was considered a significant development in order to finally bring climate change under control because felling trees depletes forests that absorb huge amounts of the warming gas CO₂.

Brazil – where vast swathes of the Amazon rainforest have been felled – was among the signatories at COP26. The move, which pledges \$19.2bn of public and private funds, will have been undoubtedly welcomed, albeit with some caution, by Dr. Carlos Nobre, one of the world’s most foremost experts on deforestation and its effects.

Nobre will also have been acutely aware that a previous pledge in 2014 did not significantly slow deforestation, noting governments must now actually deliver on what they promise.

For decades, Nobre has had to endure empty oaths and greenwash-filled statements that have done little to prevent a devastating deforestation in his homeland – yet he remains hopeful that the situation is, still, not too late. Prior to the COP26 announcement he told *Future*, why he believes this.

You have discussed the “tipping point of the Amazon” in the past. Has it already “tipped”, or are we not yet at that juncture?

Carlos Nobre: If not helped, the Amazon Forest will be negatively affected within the next 30-50 years. Even if we could stop deforestation or even meet the 2015 Paris Agreement targets of 1.5°C it’s still not enough to help solve the issues we’re facing today. As of now, the global warming over the entire Amazon Forest stands at roughly 1.4-1.5°C, but global warming is more severe as more frequent droughts in the Amazon – the result of the warming of the tropical North Atlantic – are occurring.

In the 1990s you conducted pioneering experiments that collected data from tall outposts dotted around the Amazon. Why should the whole planet be concerned about your long-term findings?

Between 1993 and 2000 [as part of Large-Scale Biosphere-Atmosphere Experiment in Amazonia, LBA] we carried out the most comprehensive experiment in the Amazon – we had 13 sites with towers, some in the forest and some on pastures. In the experiment, we wanted to compare how the forest and the pasture interacted with the atmosphere, as well as measuring the exchanges of water vapor, heat, and carbon dioxide, as well as many other measurements.

Out of those 13 towers we installed, five are still running today. We have a very good

"I DO GET EMOTIONAL. WE ARE TRYING AS HARD AS WE CAN TO MOVE TOWARDS ZERO DEFORESTATION. IT IS VERY CLEAR THAT YOU DO NOT NEED TO INCREASE DEFORESTATION TO INCREASE FARMING PRODUCTION"

understanding now that when you replace forest pastureland with grass it is warmer – the maximum temperature is 2-4°C warmer than the pastureland.

Also, most importantly, are the transpiration rates called evapotranspiration. During the dry season, the pastureland is much smaller – 1/3 of the transpiration of the forest. A unique characteristic of the tropical forests of the Amazon is that they keep recycling water all year-round. But, in the equatorial Amazon, from the Andes to the Atlantic, the forest loses more water vapor recycling capacity during the dry season, which recycles water very efficiently.

We are already seeing a reduction in rainfall during the dry season. These experiments in the Amazon demonstrated that the rainfall is losing this capacity to recycle water. That's why we're very close to the tipping point because there is no longer a climate envelope for the forest. The data is very worrying.

Why does the planet need that tree cover? Why will the Amazon, if destroyed, release 200 billion tons of carbon over the next 30 years?

The Amazon is currently in a very high deforestation rate: 18% of the total forest has been cleared while another 17% is in several stages of deeper degradation. However, in the remaining forests, below and above ground, the biomass is roughly between 150-200 billion tons of carbon.

We calculate that if the tipping point is exceeded then the climate will have 4-6 months of dry season. So, tree mortality will increase, and this new degraded ecosystem would take 30 to 50 years to take over.



Are we too late already? Or is there something still that the business world can do to mitigate this risk?

We must stop the traditional model of occupying the forest with croplands and farms. Some scientists have said we have already crossed the tipping point in Southern Amazon but there are still many abandoned areas, 23% in the Brazilian Amazon is pastureland which has been neglected. But in many pasturelands, we are seeing

"WE MUST STOP THE TRADITIONAL MODEL OF OCCUPYING THE FOREST WITH CROPLANDS AND FARMS. SOME SCIENTISTS HAVE SAID WE HAVE ALREADY CROSSED THE TIPPING POINT IN SOUTHERN AMAZON"

the regrowth of a secondary forest. There is hope if we have a moratorium on forest degradation, then we have a large scale of forest restoration – natural regeneration.

In many large areas, there will be natural regeneration, in some other areas, particularly in the Southern Amazon, we need to restore the forests, this costs between \$1000-2,000 per hectare.

There must be funding from financial sectors, corporations, countries, particularly developed countries that come to an international agreement to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. We need tens of billions of dollars a year to restore large areas in the global tropics.

Although a man of science, it must be hard for you to not get emotive about this topic?

I do get emotional. We are trying as hard as we can to move towards zero deforestation. It is very clear that you do not need to increase deforestation to increase farming production – it's just a matter of increasing productivity a little. Cattle productivity in the Amazon is extremely low, 1.3 heads of cattle per hectare. You could easily have 345 heads of cattle per hectare. That is not intensive. So, there is no need to increase deforestation in Brazil. That is why we remain optimistic.

Less than ten years ago, the annual deforestation rates in Brazil were less than

Brazil, they exploded in the last three years, with more than 11,000 square kilometers in 2020. It will probably be about the same this year in terms of forest degradation and a record-breaking number of fires. So yes, we really are concerned.

On the other hand, I am still hopeful that, because of the guidance science is providing, we do not need to increase deforestation to keep levels of food production in the world. In the tropics we can tremendously increase productivity. And, of course, 30% of global emissions of greenhouse gases come from the agriculture sector, via methane emissions from cattle – the largest percentage within the agricultural sector.

Why do you do what you do? Why is your passion undimmed for the forests?

During my undergraduate years, when I was studying electronics engineering [at Instituto Tecnológico de Aeronáutica in São José dos Campos, Brazil], I had the opportunity to visit the Amazon during summer vacation when I was 21.

I went all the way to the north, close to the border between Brazil and French Guiana. In a second year, I went all the way to the west, the border between Brazil and Peru. Traveling made me realize how magnificent the forest was, even though I did not know anything about forests, biodiversity, or biology at the time.

\$1,000-2,000
THE COST TO RESTORE THE FORESTS, PER HECTARE

5,000 square kilometers. Still high, but far less compared to, say, 27,000 square kilometers in 2004, the second largest year of deforestation [in 1985, 29,000 sq km of forest was cleared]. Colombia reduced deforestation for two years, but unfortunately, the deforestation rates increased in 2020. Venezuela also increased. In fact, in all the other Amazonian countries as well as Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, and Brazil, deforestation rates are increasing. In

What effect did that have on you?

I fell in love with them. Then after coming back from those trips, I decided I wanted to dedicate my life and professional life to the Amazon. After I graduated in 1974-1975, I went to the Amazon and found a job as an engineer in Brazil's National Institute for Amazonian Research. I was hired to help with the maintenance of laboratories.

I later decided to quit research engineering to become a scientist in natural science.

"I AM STILL HOPEFUL THAT, BECAUSE OF THE GUIDANCE SCIENCE IS PROVIDING, WE DO NOT NEED TO INCREASE DEFORESTATION TO KEEP LEVELS OF FOOD PRODUCTION"

In 1977, I did a PhD in Meteorology, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology MIT.

From 1983, I dedicated my life to the Amazon to understand how the forest interacts with the atmosphere, how important they are for climate, how it affects climate change and how deforestation also affects it.

What positive change is there in the Amazon?

I am starting to see a global movement, particularly from the youth. This new generation, who will be adults in less than 10 years, will start having much more power in the political system. I'm hopeful that we can find ways to convince tropical countries to find a sustainable pathway to protect the remaining forests. So, although I'm very concerned, I'm not pessimistic.

We need to demonstrate the feasibility of economic innovations in the Amazon. The standing forest has a much higher economic value than it does for beef meat or crops because it has the highest biodiversity species diversity on the planet – more than 10% of all known species of trees, plants and animals are in the Amazon rainforest. We have these so-called 'agro-ecological' systems, which provide a much better quality of life and wellbeing for people. These systems can produce forest products from the biodiversity: acai berries, cacao, Brazil nuts, oils – plus the potential for pharmaceuticals and many other bio products is gigantic. It's hardly been tapped into.

Modern science, merging with traditional knowledge from the indigenous people who have been living with this forest for thousands of years – with a high quality of life – can help us learn more about the biocultural diversity of the Amazon. We have to bring this new economic pathway for the Amazon. That would support and maintain the forests. ■

FORGING ETHICAL, SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAINS



Katrine Vetaas Vedeler, former Director of Responsible Supply Chain for KPMG AS in Norway, tells Michael Jones that there is a positive change in how companies are managing their human rights responsibilities, ethical standards, and sustainability credentials throughout the supply chain



Katrine Vetaas Vedeler has been helping companies improve their supply chains – making them more ethical, responsible, and sustainable – for many years. It is a topic she is incredibly passionate about. Why? Because questionable ethics and human rights abuses are still endemic in business supply chains, globally. The issue will undoubtedly continue until all large companies with multiple suppliers perform a rigorous analysis of every link in their supply chains to ensure they are upholding the same high standards throughout.

A key part of Vedeler's former role at KPMG Norway was to help companies conduct human rights due diligence assessments. The process has several steps. "If you look at how it is defined by The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), it all starts with governance. So, we provide assistance from

the very top of a company," she says. "If a company is going to build a responsible way of handling its supply chains, we help them assess the extent to which they currently meet best practice and the expectations of international bodies when it comes to human rights."

From there, Vedeler and her team look at the respective management systems and the kind of policies, procedures and requirement tools a business has in place to manage human rights in the supply chain. "That includes its code of conduct to determine whether it has a human rights policy. We then help them perform a gap analysis," she says.

For Vedeler's clients in Norway, it is specifically relevant to look at upcoming legislation because of a new law launched by the Norwegian government called The Transparency Act. "That law will require companies of a certain size to report how they are conducting human rights due diligence. The law is enforced in July 2022, so

many companies are now wondering what to do about it,” she says. “Norwegian law is completely aligned with the international frameworks on human rights, such as The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, so those companies that have already started [human rights due diligence], are closer to meeting the expectations.”

The next step is to conduct risk assessments. “We support our clients in finding where they have the highest risks in their supply chain,” says Vedeler. “That’s also very closely linked to international frameworks where you are supposed to try to understand your supply chain, acknowledge where you

“WE TRY TO HELP [CLIENTS] PRIORITIZE THEIR ACTIONS THROUGH THE RISK ASSESSMENT. THEN WE CAN HELP THEM CONDUCT AUDITS, CONTROLS OR ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES WITH THEIR SUPPLIERS THAT HELP THEM ASK, ‘DOES OUR SUPPLIERS RISK HARM TO PEOPLE IN THEIR OPERATIONS AND SUPPLY CHAIN?’”



have risks and then prioritize the risks that have the largest impact in terms of scale, scope and remediability – potential harm to peoples’ human rights.”

That “potential harm” can be manifested in any activities being undertaken by workers within a supply chain. “We try to help [clients] narrow the scope where their responsibilities are through the risk assessment,” says Vedeler. “Then we can help them conduct audits, controls or engagement activities with their suppliers that help them ask, ‘Does our supplier risk harm to people in their supply chain and in their operations?’ We do that by speaking with the supplier’s management team. We also speak with the workers to ask, ‘What’s the situation like?’ in order to understand what kind of risk exposure they are subject to. Then we look at documentation for a selected group of people working with suppliers and triangulate that by looking at policies and procedures. If we find things that are not as they should be according to international or national expectations in their supply chain, then we can help them create an action plan so that they close those gaps.”

This can frequently be a lengthy process, says Vedeler, if there are serious deviations impacting how a person is able to perform his or her job. And those deviations can cover all manner of ills, from employees working

too many hours or not being remunerated a ‘living wage’. There could be indicators of slavery, such as employees being asked to hand over passports or other ID documents to their employer. It could be that they are being harassed or discriminated against or kept from participating in union activities and collective bargaining. It could be that accommodation standards provided by an employer are not acceptable or simply that workers are not being treated with dignity. “There could be grievance mechanisms that workers are not aware of where they can go to speak out about any concerns they might have,” says Vedeler.

STAKEHOLDER POWER

Not every business has an extensive supply chain, and some sectors differ in terms of their potential exposure to human rights or ethics abuses. So, do manufacturing companies specifically face more of a challenge to ensure their supply chains are responsible, ethical, and sustainable? “We would say that companies that purely provide services may have an easier task perhaps they don’t have so many layers of suppliers. If you produce a product, then you may have many layers of suppliers,” says Vedeler. “It can be harder to map your supply chain. Very often we see that those companies that produce products have the highest risk the further down the supply chain goes, so, it’s necessary to map the supply chain all the way down. But in some industries where they produce products, there has been real progress. For instance, textile manufacturing, which has very complex, long supply chains, has really worked on its responsible supply chains over a number of years.”

Ultimately, says Vedeler, it makes good business sense to ensure a supply chain is responsible from the outset. “Simply put, a person that doesn’t have to worry about making ends meet, being discriminated against or harassed at work can focus on their job and conduct their tasks well,” she says. “And a company whose workers are well rested and happy can expect to see better quality, faster delivered services – and therefore improvements in incomes.”

Human rights and sustainability regula-



tions are also becoming tougher, at both a country and EU level. Areas that were previously stipulated as guidelines and best practice are now legal requirements for companies. Sanctions against companies that do not manage a responsible supply chain are increasing, but there is also a wider impact not previously felt by big business – stakeholder power. More than ever before, when they deem that a company is not behaving ethically, customers and investors are voting with their feet. The implications of that can be far-reaching for those businesses that do not address their shortcomings. “It may be that consumers turn away from them or investors are not willing to invest in the company,” says Vedeler.

Thankfully, Vedeler is detecting something of a sea-change in how companies now view their human rights responsibilities as well as how they maintain ethics and act sustainably throughout their respective supply chains. “There is an awakening in people in general. Consumers are more aware of the risks out there and our [collective] responsibility

“IT CAN BE HARDER TO MAP YOUR SUPPLY CHAIN. OFTEN, WE SEE THAT THOSE COMPANIES THAT PRODUCE PRODUCTS FURTHER DOWN THE SUPPLY CHAIN, SO, IT’S NECESSARY TO MAP THE SUPPLY CHAIN ALL THE WAY DOWN, TO THE RAW MATERIALS USED”

for asking questions. The legal landscape is following that awakening among consumers and other stakeholders. The two things are working together. It’s great to see this change in the landscape – it’s a push in the right direction. The younger generation is less patient on this, I would say.”

In addition, many young people will also choose to not work with a company accused of mistreating its people (including, by extension, its suppliers) or the planet, damaging their ability to attract new talent. “This is the way our world is moving,” says Vedeler. “It will be tougher for companies that haven’t worked on their supply chains and tried to understand what kind of risk exposure they have with products or the services they provide. On the positive side for companies, there’s not too much you need to do in order to improve a little bit. But you must start by looking at your supply chain and try to figure out where you have the highest risks, or the most vulnerable workers in the supply chain.” ■

MAN ON A MISSION



One of the few people to attend every United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP) since they began, **Saleemul Huq** is director of the International Center for Climate Change and Development (ICCAD) in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He tells Michael Jones about his endless passion for reducing the impact of climate change



The outcomes of COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, proved to be something of a disappointment to many of the climate change campaigners who attended. But perhaps, none more so than one of the few people to have attended every conference since they began: ICCAD's Saleemul Huq.

What is the mission of the ICCAD?

Saleemul Huq: The center is now 10 years old, so still fairly young. It's a research center inside the Independent University, Bangladesh. The ambition is to make it into a global center on tackling climate change, particularly adaptation to climate change, and now, a new and emerging area called loss and damage from climate change. Because while climate change cannot be prevented from happening, unfortunately it can get worse. So, we are now in the era of dealing with the impacts of climate change. That's our area of expertise.

What are you hoping to achieve?

We do a lot of capacity building, particularly for vulnerable countries such as the least developed countries in Asia and Africa, on how to tackle climate change. We have a particular focus on a knowledge exchange with a formal group recognized by the UN of 48 of the most vulnerable, poorest countries. Most of them are in Sub-Saharan Africa, but a few are in Asia, including

"LOSS AND DAMAGE' WASN'T ON OUR RADAR 10 YEARS AGO. IT IS NOW, SO WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT. WE INTEND TO BE ONE OF THE MAJOR, GLOBAL CENTERS WORKING ON THIS NEW AND EMERGING TOPIC"

Bangladesh. The center also runs a network of universities in less developed countries (LDCs) called the Consortium on Climate Change (CCC).

For the last seven years, we have been running a one-year double major Master's program in Climate Change and Development. It's not a UN climate expert development program, it's connecting climate change with development. Increasingly, people working in the development sector need to know about climate change and how it's going to affect them. So that's a growing area of skill requirement we provide for our students.

Have the Center's objectives changed?

It's the same mission, but the urgency is much higher. 'Loss and damage' wasn't on our radar 10 years ago. It is now, so we're going to have to deal with it. We intend to be one of the major, global centers working on this new and emerging topic.

Why should so-called 'developed countries' do more to support faster-growing economies and poor countries?

There are two paradigms under which this dichotomy of developed and developing countries plays itself out. There is a historical paradigm of colonialism, where rich countries became rich because they had colonies – and the developing countries of today are former colonies of those rich countries. So, there's a legacy there of colonialization. And in many cases, the former colonialists recognize that and have been providing official development assistance to poor countries, mainly their own ex-colonies, out of a historical sense of responsibility. The paradigm under which they give it is the paradigm of charity. That is a very

good reason for giving, but it really has no obligation attached to it.

There is a second formulation that applies in the climate change world under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is a treaty that all countries have entered into to deal with climate change. Climate change occurs because of greenhouse gas emissions that have been emitting for the last century and a half since the Industrial Revolution and has also led to rich countries becoming rich by burning fossil fuels and emitting greenhouse gases, which are now causing damage. That's a very different paradigm – but when we meet at the Climate Convention, it isn't characterized by rich and poor, it's characterized by polluters and victims of pollution, therefore, any obligation is legally binding, unlike development assistance, which is purely voluntary. The countries that make those promises can be held to keep those promises.

How does that work in practice?

Countries made a promise in Paris in 2015, to pledge \$100bn a year by 2020. But even by this year [2021] at COP26 in Glasgow, they still didn't cough up the money. They said, "we're not going to reach it till 2023." That is a violation of trust and a violation of their obligation under a treaty. But we can't say anything. The recipients have no place to – it's the prerogative and authority of individual governments to overturn decisions, because of exigent circumstances. That failure to keep promises is wrong.

What good did COP26 achieve?

I'm massively disappointed. We all came to Glasgow with very high expectations, which were aided and abetted by the UK's Prime Minister giving big speeches and promising a lot. Then, two weeks later, they delivered very little of what they promised. On the

other hand, something is better than nothing with regards to the finance agenda. The particular aspect of the finance issue, which is of concern the more vulnerable, developing countries, is how much money goes for adaptation, which is dealing with the impacts of climate change.

The amount of \$100bn was meant to support both mitigation – reducing greenhouse gases – as well as adaptation. The donors have instead provided \$79bn, but 80% of that was for mitigation in the form of loans, because mitigation projects for renewable energy mostly generate an income that can pay back a loan. But only 20% of the money pledged was for adaptation for the poorest countries to adapt to the impacts of climate change, which doesn't generate any income for which they can pay back a loan. Even giving them a loan to deal with the impacts is morally questionable. So, the amount of funding for adaptation was only 20%, when it should at least be 50%.

The good thing that happened in Glasgow is that developed countries acknowledged that they had not done enough on adaptation, and they all agreed to double their adaptation funding in the next few years. Many of them announced new contributions on adaptation to funds like the Green Climate Fund while we were in Glasgow. So that is the positive: more funding for adaptation coming or being promised. Hopefully, it will come.

What other concerns do you have?

Another issue I have been particularly concerned about is that, even the money that nations have given for adaptation – the 20% of the \$79bn – has actually not reached the most vulnerable people in the most vulnerable communities in the most vulnerable countries. The best estimates are that only 10% of that money has gone to the most vulnerable.

"THE GOOD THING THAT HAPPENED IN GLASGOW IS THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THEY HAD NOT DONE ENOUGH ON ADAPTATION, AND THEY ALL AGREED TO DOUBLE THEIR ADAPTATION FUNDING IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS. THAT IS THE POSITIVE: MORE FUNDING FOR ADAPTATION COMING OR BEING PROMISED. HOPEFULLY, IT WILL COME"

There is a failure to deliver funding meant for the most vulnerable people. There's a variety of reasons for that and that's something I work closely on – ensuring funds actually go to the most vulnerable. We call this locally-led adaptation – identifying local communities and funding them, rather than intermediaries such as governments that siphon off money in the middle.

What policy or direct action would you like to have seen from the summit?

There was a very strong demand in Glasgow from all the developing countries for the creation of a facility for finance for loss and damage. Every country belongs to subgroups with other like-minded countries. There are many such subgroups, with all the developing countries subgroups joined under the umbrella called the 'G77 and China', which now consists of 138 developing countries who represent five billion people. This group had put forward language calling for the Glasgow Facility on Financing Loss and Damage, which was in the Glasgow Climate

Pact text until the Friday that COP26 was supposed to officially close.

But then the COP26 Presidency extended the Conference by another 24 hours and, when we came back on Saturday, that language had disappeared and been replaced by a 'dialogue' rather than a facility. It was a very significant change and put the issue into the long grass. But we accepted it with heavy heart, and we'll move on to COP27 [7-18 November 2022], in Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt, reiterating the demands and participating in the dialogue.

What is still your biggest concern about climate change in the future?

I characterize the future of climate change as being very different from the past. COP26 was completely different to the previous 25 COPs, because they were about preventing and preparing for a future climate change. At COP26, we have crossed the threshold. We now have unequivocal evidence from the IPCC [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] Working Group that

climate change is already happening – because global average temperatures have gone up by 1.1°C at least. So, COP26, and all future COPs, are in a new era: those of losses and damages from climate change, which is responsible for every single extreme weather event we see anywhere in the world. That it is a very strong presumption in the scientific community. The loss and damage we're seeing, includes the loss of human lives. That's the reality.

What fundamental changes would you like to see big business make in terms of how it operates its supply chains?

The answer to the reality of tackling climate change more effectively lies in the business community rather than with governments, which have failed to give it adequate attention and priority. Businesses are going to have to do that now and many of them are realizing that and are tackling the reality of climate change. They need to figure out for themselves, what their role should be – on the one hand, by reducing their own carbon footprint and, on the other hand, to make their supply chains less vulnerable and more resilient going forward. It's a double aspect of emission reduction on one side and building resilience on the other.

Why do you do what you do? Why are you still so passionate about this?

My passion comes from the injustice of it. It's not fair that rich people cause the problem and poor people suffer, in essence. Being from Bangladesh, living in a very poor country that suffers from poverty, but also from climate change impacts, I'm able to study that, and learn how to deal with it. And potentially help others who will be in a similar position to help them as well. So that's where my research interests lie.

I try to influence that process as best I can as an outsider. I'm not an insider or a negotiator, but I advise the least developed countries in the negotiations. I try to shift the tenor of the discussions in favor of the most vulnerable, which is a tough thing to do. The global political economy is not a level playing field, the rich and the powerful, never listened to the poor and the vulnerable. ■



\$100bn A YEAR BY 2020
AMOUNT COUNTRIES PROMISED TO PLEDGE IN 2015



A CALL TO ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE



Tom Rivett-Carnac is the founding partner of Global Optimism, co-presenter of climate podcast, Outrage + Optimism, and co-author of *The Future We Choose: The Stubborn Optimist's Guide to the Climate Crisis*. In his keynote address at the Sofidel 2021 3SAwards on Monday 6 December, he shared his recent thoughts on COP26 in Glasgow, UK, where he sees climate change heading, and what society can do to resolve the underlining issue

It's remarkable how Sofidel and its suppliers are working together to deliver real change – with sustainability at the center. Integrating climate leadership into business relationships is one of the main reasons why we're beginning to deal with the climate crisis. Although we aren't there yet, the progress is undeniable.

CONCLUSIONS FROM COP26

After returning from COP26 in Glasgow, a lot has been said about what was and wasn't achieved. The complexity of the meeting was captured to me by two statements that I heard from two different leaders within 30 minutes of each other at the end of the first week. John Kerry, the US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, spoke out and said, "We are on the brink of history. Future generations will look back on this moment as a turning point in turning the tide against climate change."

Greta Thunberg stood, up less than 30 minutes later, and said, "COP26 has failed utterly." The interesting thing about these statements is that they are contradictory, but both are, arguably, true. In my capacity as head of political strategy for the UN, I was responsible for negotiating the [2015] Paris Agreement, which was supposed to set in motion a process that would decarbon-

ize the global economy by the middle of the century. Although reaching an agreement was difficult for many reasons, the principle of fairness was one of them.

Climate change is fundamentally unfair. The countries that have done the least to cause this crisis would argue that it is unjust to ask them to solve a problem they did not cause, and thereby lose their chance to build the kind of strong economy that rich countries have already achieved. We can only solve this problem together, since most of the current pollution comes from countries such as China, India, and Brazil. It must therefore be a global alliance.

We have a unique mechanism in international law to solve that problem, where we have a long-term goal to reach net zero by the middle of the century, and sequential five-year plans that will eventually get us there. Coming out of Paris, we now have the aim to limit global warming to 1.5°C as part of this long-term goal, but short-term policies that the countries implemented would have taken us to nearly 4°C. Although we were concerned, we hoped that after five years, for short-term targets, technology would have improved, younger populations would have reached voting age, economics would have changed, and renewables would have become more affordable. But honestly,



"WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DECADE IN HUMAN HISTORY. THE EIGHT YEARS THAT LIE AHEAD WILL DETERMINE THE QUALITY OF LIFE ON THE PLANET FOR THOUSANDS, IF NOT HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS, OF YEARS TO COME"

Tom portrait photography: Ivan Weiss

the impacts would have gotten worse.

All of this would mean a greater commitment to increase short-term commitments and align them with long-term goals. Many countries did return to the table, about 100 countries increased their national commitments. As you add all of that up, it brings the temperature pathway we're on closer to 2.5°C of warming rather than nearly 4°C.

That's the good news. Secondly, a range of shared commitments were made in Glasgow on forests, methane, coal, and other topics. If these are added to the national commitment, the threshold may be closer to 1.8°C once it's all added up. That's even better. We also realized we haven't yet done enough. Whether it's 2.5, or 1.8°C, that's still way too high. Therefore, countries were asked to come back – not in five years – but next year, to make further commitments to try to close the gap.

The ratchet mechanism is working, the temperature trajectory is coming down and we're managing the economic trajectory of our planet – and moving it towards safety. But now, let's broaden our lens a bit and think about where we really are. We are in the middle of the most important decade in human history. The eight years that lie ahead will determine the quality of life on the planet for thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of years to come.

Furthermore, Glasgow's actions are merely pledges. The only way they have any real meaning is if they are implemented. Governments in Glasgow committed to ending deforestation, which is great, but they also committed to it in 2014 and since then, deforestation rates have increased by 43%. We're getting closer to real policies, but we're not there yet.

One of the most important outcomes from Glasgow was the commitment that countries would come back in 12 months with new commitments that would bring us closer to the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C. This is a huge opportunity for us all. Governments will not go faster than they feel they can, based on supporting their own economies. In this, national policy has a unique role. Governments are more likely to go further and faster on climate

"SOFIDEL'S COMMITMENT TO SCIENCE-BASED TARGETS IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF THIS; IT'S TIME TO TAKE BOLD ACTION. DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS TO TALK ABOUT THE LEADERSHIP YOU'RE ALREADY DEMONSTRATING. YOUR TRANSPARENCY ON YOUR COMMITMENT IS GOING TO BE MORE IMPORTANT FOR SHOWING THAT YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT THIS AS WELL AS FOR CONVINCING OTHERS"

solutions if they see that businesses are leading and investing, creating jobs, and also finding solutions.

ACHIEVEMENTS THAT ARE STILL TO BE MADE

Therefore, this is the year to accomplish three things. The first step is to make a bold and ambitious commitment, which is crucial for big companies. It is equally important for small businesses, which are the drivers of employment in an economy that is net zero as soon as possible, by 2040 or earlier, to sign on to a strong climate pledge with strong interim targets.

Sofidel's commitment to science-based targets is a great example of this; it's time to take bold action. Develop your skills to talk about the leadership you're already demonstrating. Your transparency on your commitment is going to be more important for showing that you're serious about this as well as for convincing others. There is a serious breakdown in trust between activists and those who are interested in what corporations are doing, as we saw in Glasgow. We can resolve this by showing corporations that they are serious.

Lastly, you need to talk about this issue and encourage engagement in a variety of ways. Whatever your business, you might

interact with consumers, investors, or trade associations. Utilizing all of those relationships to elevate and accelerate this issue is crucial. This generation is in a unique position to have a greater impact on the future of life on Earth than any previous generation. If we succeed, we should grasp this opportunity with all our tenacity, boldness, and dedication.

Thank you so much for the leadership you're showing in Sofidel supply chain, everybody – you're all doing well, but now is the time to double down, we won't get another chance like this.

KEEPING AN OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK

We have seen in the Paris Agreement that optimism and dedication, not blind optimism, but a determination to dig in and do what's necessary, is more often the result of success than the cause. Aside from that, many other things are going well for us in this transformation as well. We are seeing lower prices for clean energy, land is being regenerated and reforested, capital is shifting, and the financial sector has moved very quickly. Kids in the streets are calling for change with a verve and tenacity we haven't seen for years; it might work this time. It's up to us in the next eight years [2022-2030], but especially in the next 12 months.

To the question, "How much time do we have left?" The answer is, "Time for what?" It would have been much better if we'd sorted this out in 1992 or 2000, at the time this issue was first identified. In which case we would have implemented a gentle 1% a year reduction, but we have left it so late, that now we need an 8% reduction every year. By keeping our emissions in place, we will see a rise in temperature of 1.5°C, which is already greater than anything humans have ever accomplished together.

Climate change is a case of winning slowly, as well as losing. If we push our planet into a different stable state, the ice caps melt, the white ice disappears and is replaced by a dark blue ocean that absorbs more heat – and the warming will run away from us very quickly. We don't have any more time. We must deal with this issue. Now. ■

After COP26: taking immediate, effective, and continuous action

WITH ADVANCES MADE AT COP26, NOW IS THE TIME FOR ACTION

With the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) concluding on 13 November 2021, in Glasgow, Scotland, the agreement reached on the rules governing the regulated carbon market marked a key achievement. Once in force, the new rules will represent an important step in the direction of a global system for investing in decarbonization.

The achievement should be celebrated, along with the other important announcements made during COP26, because they are the result of strong action taken by civil society to ensure their success. However, we cannot rule out that the combination of all commitments formalized by the group of countries during COP26 will fall short of keeping the rise in the average global temperature at 1.5°C or less in relation to pre-industrial levels. And meeting this target is what will determine the success of the efforts mobilized to address the climate crisis and mitigate the damage to living conditions for this and future generations.

The proposal approved for the regulated carbon market will give greater transparency, security, and credibility to the system, with its approval in two phases. The first, which remains at the discretion of each country, is validating, or not, the climate project. In the second phase, the initiative will undergo an international audit conducted by the United Nations



“CHANGE COMES GRADUALLY, ESPECIALLY ON MORE SENSITIVE TOPICS. THIS IS A GAME THAT WILL END ONLY WHEN GLOBAL CARBON EMISSIONS STABILIZE AT A LEVEL THAT ENSURES KEEPING THE PLANET’S AVERAGE TEMPERATURE RISE AT 1.5°C”



Walter Schalka, CEO of Suzano, looks at the successes achieved at COP26 in Glasgow, challenges still to be addressed and discusses why the hard work to turn plans into action must start right away

Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Because the number of projects approved is limited, the carbon credits to be negotiated on the regulated market will tend to register significant price increases. The result will be more financial resources on a scale and in the timeframe required for investing in projects to reduce carbon emissions, causing positive social impacts on the regions where they are developed.

FUTURE FORECASTS

Meanwhile, looking to the future, one day carbon credits will cease to have value, since we expect the climate problem to have been addressed by important changes in the world electricity matrix and in transportation.

We solved a long-standing problem, and Brazil achieved important advances in its positioning during COP26 by making concessions on issues that had imposed limits on reaching a consensus. Still early in the conference, Brazil announced a new nationally determined contribution (NDC) that accelerated the country's net zero goal to 2050, from 2060, and included a target to reduce carbon emissions 50% by 2030 from 2005 levels, compared to the previous target of 43%. In the agreements signed, it committed to targets for reducing methane gas emissions and for halting all deforestation by 2030. These are some of the advances achieved at COP26, which certainly will have impor-

tant environment, social and economic impacts in the future.

Other relevant topics, however, advanced less than hoped, such as developed countries still not reaching agreement on renewing the commitment to making available US\$100 billion annually to the decarbonization projects of poorer nations. Despite Brazil's positioning to demand a better relationship between the availability of resources and the execution of decarbonization projects, there was no concrete definitions on the values and timeframes in the final agreement of COP26.

Little progress was made on standardizing the measurement metrics adopted in the NDCs, which is of vital importance, despite the efforts made by the Science Based Target initiative (SBTi) to mobilize companies in adopting science-based targets to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

The commitment to reducing the use of fossil-based fuels achieved the best possible result, considering the resistance of companies that are major oil producers or coal consumers, and whose economies are still highly dependent on these inputs. Regardless, the final report of COP26 stated, for the first time, the need to reduce the use of inefficient energy sources as a target to be addressed in the near future. There is, however, still much to discuss and hope for at COP27, in 2022.

Multilateral negotiations, such as those occurring at COP26, are extremely

“THE ACHIEVEMENT SHOULD BE CELEBRATED ALONG WITH THE OTHER IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE DURING COP26”

complex because they involve nearly 200 countries, each holding a veto vote, reaching a consensus. This means that change comes gradually, especially on more sensitive topics. This is a game that will end only when global carbon emissions stabilize at a level that ensures keeping the planet's average temperature rise at 1.5°C.

With the conference in Glasgow now behind us, the world now must begin work on a series of steps so that the advances achieved at COP26 go from paper to real-world action. The same goes for Brazil, which has a comprehensive and complex internal agenda to construct. The maturation of a series of public policies involving the climate change agenda is needed, especially those involving the creation of the Brazilian Emission Reduction Market.

The discussions held during COP26 made clear that this is just one step forward among others that must be taken in the future, and that the planet needs immediate, effective, and continuous action from governments, companies, and consumers. Afterall, in the future, either we all win, or we all lose with the decisions and actions adopted today. ■



Sofidel 2021 3SAwards winners' story:

PLASTYLENIA

Sofidel works closely with its suppliers to ensure sustainability. Italian supplier company **Plastylenia** came up with a solution to cut down on the amount of virgin plastic used in tissue packaging



"It is not possible for a company to exist today if it doesn't pay attention to the sustainability aspect," says Francesco Stenta (left), Sales Manager

at Plastylenia, which has been operating in flexographic printing for flexible packaging for more than 20 years. Plastylenia's line of business includes the manufacturing of printed materials for packaging using paper and plastic.

Plastylenia's commitment to sustainability led the company to set up a project to look at reducing the amount of virgin plastic used in the production of packaging for the tissue sector. The existing alternative, bio plastic, was in short supply and difficult to use with existing machinery.

"Paper, with other recycled plastic, was the best solution – it is recyclable and compostable," says Stenta. "The problem is paper is not sealable. This was the birth of our project: to find a way to make

paper sealable in a converting machine designed to use only plastic."

"We studied paper, different varnishes, ways to put the varnish on the paper and many other aspects of the process," he continues. "We also proposed recycled plastic instead of virgin plastic. In recent years, this allowed us to reduce the quantity of virgin plastic used by Sofidel in their tissue paper production process. Importantly, our customer avoided having to invest in new converting machinery, the new packaging could be used with existing machinery in place at their production plants."

GETTING BETTER RESULTS, IMPROVING RELATIONSHIPS

"Our idea about sustainability is the same as Sofidel's," says Marco D'Arrigo of Plastylenia's quality department. "We introduced the paper and recycled plastic packaging, reducing the consumption of virgin plastic in our production from 100% in 2019 to 84% in 2021."

Sofidel is keen to work with its suppliers in Italy and worldwide, helping them get better results in terms of environmental and social sustainability and improving relationships, projects, and operational activities, combining efforts and results.

As such, Plastylenia was presented with the Environmental Responsibility award for Medium/Small Enterprises in the 'Best Sustainability Project' category, at the Sofidel 2021 3SAwards on 6 December 2021. The judges explained that Plastylenia was rewarded for the activities carried out in recent years aimed at

reducing the consumption of virgin plastic in the production of packaging for the tissue sector.

The judges' rationale was clear: "The current climate and environmental crisis must be addressed in line with the principles of a circular economy, limiting the consumption of raw materials and, specifically, those derived from fossil fuels. The project carried out by Plastylenia is in line with these principles, with activities that address the issue on several fronts, from the reduction of the material used and the search for alternatives, to the reuse of production waste," stated the judges.

The Plastylenia project was assessed by a Technical Evaluation Committee made up of the Global Compact Network Italy Foundation, Sodalitas Foundation, SGS Italy and WWF Italy.

"We focus on the sustainability of our products and their circularity. During our production process we can recover energy and use it for drying in the packaging print process. We can recover part of the solvent from the inks and reuse after distillation," says Stenta. "This is our thinking; to look at every part of our production process to improve the way we produce and being ever more sustainable in our business." ■

FURTHER DETAILS:
For more information, please visit plastylenia.it

"OUR IDEA ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY WAS THE SAME AS SOFIDEL'S. WE INTRODUCED THE PAPER AND RECYCLED PLASTIC PACKAGING, REDUCING THE CONSUMPTION OF VIRGIN PLASTIC IN OUR PRODUCTION FROM 100% IN 2019 TO 84% IN 2021"



Sofidel 2021 3SAwards winners' story:

KUEHNE+NAGEL

Sofidel is proud to champion a sustainable supply chain. Its partner, leading global logistics company **Kuehne+Nagel**, has made sustainability part of its DNA



"Sustainability is not a destination – it's a journey for us and our customers," says Ave Crotti, Customer Solutions Team Manager and Global

Sustainability Project Leader at Kuehne+Nagel (above). Based in Switzerland, Kuehne+Nagel provides freight forwarding and supply chain services in over 100 countries worldwide. The company is a forerunner of sustainability in the world of logistics.

"We implement the highest levels of ethics and compliance, give back to local communities and minimize the impact of our services on the environment," Crotti explains. "We take a holistic view of sustainability: we see it as an ethical approach towards business, towards our community and towards our employees."

As well as improving its own practices, Kuehne+Nagel is taking its customers and supply chain partners on the sustainability journey, and the impact is mutually beneficial. "A more sustainable supply chain is a more resilient supply chain – this is one of the results we get instantly," says Crotti. "It allows us and our customers to do good and to be profitable."

Kuehne+Nagel's partnership with Sofidel is based on shared values and a joint commitment to do good, Italy Managing Director Ruggero Poli explains: "We have been partners with Sofidel for a long time. We both believe in a better future for our stakeholders and the community we operate in."

"OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY IS NOW TRANSLATED INTO A SCIENCE-BASED ROADMAP TO NEUTRALITY BY 2030"

SUSTAINABILITY FOR GOOD

"Our decades-long commitment to sustainability is now translated into a science-based roadmap to neutrality by 2030," says Crotti. "With our Net-Zero Carbon Program, we not only address our own emissions, but we help our customers develop awareness about the supply chain's carbon footprint. Our aim is to support them in designing a roadmap to neutrality."

The program offers unrivaled value to Kuehne+Nagel customers. It provides clear assessment processes, actionable frameworks and real tools to work towards sustainability, including tracking emissions and producing certified documentation.

Kuehne+Nagel's Net-Zero Carbon Program earned the Environmental Responsibility award for Large Enterprises in the 'Best Sustainability Project' category at Sofidel's 3SAwards 2021. The category recognizes the most effective and innovative environmental or social sustainability projects realized by Sofidel's supplier companies worldwide. "This award celebrates our daily commitment to connecting people and goods via innovative and sustainable solutions," says Crotti.

The technical assessment committee praised Kuehne+Nagel's commitment to developing a structured, all-round carbon

neutrality strategic roadmap, with a particular focus on decarbonization objectives and scope 3 targets [indirect emissions that occur within a company's value chain] in such a sensitive sector as transport. Its effort to integrate the value chain into the reasoning and to provide carbon offsetting activities to neutralize CO2 emissions was judged significant. They also noted the fact that Kuehne+Nagel's project is not a stand-alone program – sustainability is part of the company's philosophy.

"The journey to sustainability is part of Kuehne+Nagel's values and DNA," Poli explains, "and it's not only a professional commitment, but a personal one."

The award has further spotlighted the highly cooperative and productive relationship between Kuehne+Nagel and Sofidel. "It's amazing to share the same values and goals with Sofidel," says Crotti. "We look forward to bringing our joint commitment into further action with real emission-reduction initiatives."

The second time that Kuehne+Nagel has won in Sofidel's Suppliers Sustainability Awards (3SAwards), having been recognized in 2017's 'Best Supplier – Logistics Services' category, this accolade is another milestone in a long-term journey, driven by a commitment to create a better future. ■

FURTHER DETAILS:
For more information, please visit it.kuehne-nagel.com/en/



Sofidel 2021 3SAwards winners' story:

CAPP PLAST

Sofidel recognizes social inclusion as a core facet of sustainability. Italy-based plastics producer **Capp Plast** is championing refugees in the workforce



A true commitment to sustainability goes beyond environmental stewardship. “Today more than ever, company goals must consider customer satisfaction, the wellbeing of employees and care for the environment,” says Adriano Baldi, chairman of Italy-based company Capp Plast – founded in 1960 near Florence.

Social inclusion – working to empower the disadvantaged and vulnerable – is a fundamental part of this responsibility and challenge. Refugees make up an enormous but underrepresented group, Sergio Panerai, Capp Plast’s central planning and quality director, explains, “The UN Refugee Agency UNHCR [The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees] estimates that more than 80 million people are displaced globally because of wars, conflicts and persecution. Over eight out of 10 refugees live in developing countries,” he says.

“We want to achieve a double goal,” says Luca Battistini, director of HR and organization. “We intend to commit to a model of social inclusion. Moreover, we concretely assume part of the responsibility to build a society that is more sensitive to the needs of refugees.”

The relationship between Capp Plast and Sofidel goes back 30 years and is built on a shared spirit of quality, collaboration, and innovation. The companies continue to be aligned in their commitment to championing their respective products and processes – as well as a focus on social inclusion.

A WARM WELCOME

The UNHCR launched its Welcome project to promote a culture of inclusion and to help refugees enter the workforce. Capp Plast is a proud member of the program. “The UNHCR Welcome project is helping to create a positive climate inside the organizations that join it,” says Baldi. “The project pays particular attention to vulnerable people who need support in order to enter the workforce.”

Now, Capp Plast and the Human Age Institute Foundation are working together to create a path to work inclusion for refugees. Refugees are placed mainly in the blow moulding and injection departments of Capp Plast. At the same time, public institutions and local trade union organizations have been actively involved by providing accommodation, assistance services and social support on the territory.

“This journey involves people of Capp Plast and Human Age Institute Foundation, with the support of operative partner ManpowerGroup, to help refugees to find and consolidate job skills that companies want. This journey involves people of Capp Plast and Human Age Institute to help refugees to find and consolidate job skills,” says Battistini. The initiative has earned Capp Plast the Social Responsibility award for ‘Best Sustainability Project’ in the Large Enterprises category at Sofidel’s 2021 3SAwards.

The project was recognized for its openness to diversity, collaboration with influential partners, and positive impact. Its contribution to the development and dissemination of good practices in the work integration of refugees, which presents challenges for companies of all sizes, was particularly appreciated by the judges from the Global Compact Network Italy Foundation, Sodalitas Foundation, SGS Italy and WWF Italy. “We welcomed five people into our company from Nigeria, Guinea, Mali and the Gambia. These people don’t have much of a past, but we can offer them a future,” says Panerai.

The journey to better inclusivity is ongoing, and Capp Plast sees it as part of the fabric of the company. “The business itself cannot go on without people, the same way it cannot avoid taking into consideration its impact on the environment,” says Baldi. ■

FURTHER DETAILS:
For more information, please visit capp-plast.com



Sofidel 2021 3SAwards winners' story:

PETROFER

A pioneering social sustainability project from Sofidel supplier **PETROFER** won the ‘Best Sustainability Project’ award in the ‘Large Enterprises, Social Responsibility’ category at the 2021 3SAwards



the Sofidel 2021 3SAwards were impressed with PETROFER’s Waterbased Embossing Additive Without Flash Point project was because it was a mixed project, encompassing both environmental and social practices.

The award was given specifically for the social responsibility aspect. The health and safety of workers within plants is a hot topic all over the world. But the judges were impressed to learn about the environmental reasons behind the research and development of this project too.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AS PARAMOUNT

PETROFER is a global company with 15 subsidiaries and 70 exclusive partners worldwide producing industrial oils and chemicals. It is headquartered in Hildesheim, Germany, and is a

“TO FOLLOW THIS WAY OF THINKING MAKES SENSE AND IS NOW OUR JOY. A LOT OF PEOPLE WORKED ON THIS PROJECT TO WIN THIS PRIZE. IT WAS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF TEAMWORK”

True sustainability is made up of many strands; environmental, economic, and social. One of the reasons the technical team of judges at

family-owned business where the third generation is already beginning to play an important role in the company. Its award-winning project focused on a lubricant to be used with embossing machinery applied in the converting stage of the manufacture of tissue paper.

Thomas Brandenburger (left), a chemical engineer at PETROFER, explained the drivers behind the project. “In tissue production you produce big mother reels that have to be converted into – for example – small rolls of toilet paper,” he said. “This process has to be quick and accurate. We heard from customers that the embossing and converting process carries a big risk of fire. Two to three fires per converter unit per year.”

This is a major consideration primarily for the health and safety risk that may affect workers within production plants, but also the machines have to be repaired, affecting production. “Tissue converting creates a lot of dust,” says Thomas. “The oil typically used in the embossing has a low flashpoint. There is also an electrical charge on the converting machine so there is a risk of sparks. This, combined with the aerosol of the oil, plus the low flashpoint, plus the dust means a high risk of fire.”

EXTENSIVE KNOW-HOW

The alternative, based on silicone oil, also has disadvantages. Most of the silicone oil available in Europe is imported from China, with its supply currently facing a number of logistical challenges. Brandenburger has also heard that the price for silicon oil is 200% higher than last year.

Apart from supply issues silicon oil causes other challenges. “Producing silicon oil is a high energy process, which is expensive and environmentally unfriendly,” he explains. “Also, if silicon ends up in the waste water, it causes a problem. It is extremely slippery too, so if it gets onto the plant floor it is like ice, which is unsafe for workers too.”

OPEN TO NEW IDEAS

PETROFER decided to apply its extensive know-how to the problem. It came up with a new product, This was trialed with Sofidel. After making a few tweaks the new product Embolube 120D was launched.

As Brandenburger concludes: “Sofidel is a company that is open to new ideas and it likes to put them into practice. Also it’s taking a path of continuous improvement, and taking us with it. Sometimes small steps, but we are going forward along the path, which is good. Business at Sofidel is not just focussed on product quality, performance, and price but there’s also a holistic view of what we are doing,” he says.

“To follow this way of thinking makes sense and is now our joy. A lot of people worked on this project to win this prize. It was a great example of teamwork.” ■

FURTHER DETAILS:
For more information, please visit petrofer.com

THE INCLUSION CONCLUSION



Oxfam is an international confederation of 20 non-governmental organizations working with partners in over 90 countries to end the injustices that cause poverty.

Areta Sobieraj, head of education, Oxfam Italia, tells Michael Jones why diversity and inclusion must be essential for this – and any – organization



Diversity and inclusion are, to many companies, not seen to be issues that carry the same weight as other concerns on the corporate agenda. That all needs to change, says Areta Sobieraj, head of education, Oxfam Italia

What is your definition of a diverse and inclusive workforce?

Areta Sobieraj: A workplace that encourages, safeguards, and respects the presence of differences in all positions – especially those that remain underrepresented or marginalized – is a diverse and inclusive workforce. Those differences can be gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, social economic status, or it could be connected to language, disability, age, or even political perspective.

Why should diversity be a key component in a company's environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) program?

We live in a globalized, hyper-interconnected and very fast-moving world. But it's also a world that has clear signs of fragility in terms of inequalities. And there is no single winner or loser because we're all interconnected. There should be a collective responsibility, as the UN's Sustainable Development Goals tells us, if we want to achieve the 17 goals of sustainable development and leave no-one behind. We all have a role to play, and that includes companies.



Today, the private sector, as well as its customers, are much more conscious of how the world works. We are more informed and tend to ask for a fairer and more sustainable world, where inequalities diminish, and justice prevails.

Consumers are increasingly demanding the corporate sector is more accountable towards people and the planet. It's therefore not possible to talk about social governance programs without addressing diversity and inclusion.

Why is being diverse and inclusive fundamentally the right thing to do?

If your workforce is truly valued and respected, working without fear or discomfort, then they will probably feel – and work – much better. When employees thrive professionally, so too will the company. Communicating a business's social responsi-

“WE LIVE IN A GLOBALIZED, HYPER-INTERCONNECTED AND VERY FAST-MOVING WORLD. BUT IT'S ALSO A WORLD THAT HAS CLEAR SIGNS OF FRAGILITY IN TERMS OF INEQUALITIES. AND THERE IS NO SINGLE WINNER OR LOSER”

bility can yield better results attracting more conscious and responsible consumers. But this must be structured with transparency and accountability. Conversely, so-called 'woke washing' can have a massively negative impact on a company, because many customers now have some big demands of how a company should treat people.

What is woke washing? Why does it need addressing?

It's like greenwashing but connected to social responsibility. It's when a company says that it's socially conscious towards its workforce or a given social issue, but its actions don't correspond. This has happened to a number of companies and there has been a backlash because customers generally are not happy when you say you're doing something and you're doing quite the opposite.

How does Oxfam promote and engender a diverse workplace?

In recent years, Oxfam has made a conscious commitment to diversity and inclusion. One of the significant changes it made was to move the confederation's headquarters from Oxford, UK, to Nairobi, Kenya. This was a rebalancing of power on a global level. It also

means hiring local staff in all countries where Oxfam works, especially in the Global South, rather continuing to hire expats.

Oxfam also committed to a recruitment policy that explicitly welcomes the most under-represented employees in societies, such as women or people with disabilities. Two of the last three executive directors have been women, while two have also been non-white. These are very clear signals that the company wants to change in terms of diversity and inclusion.

What other initiatives has Oxfam put in place?

Oxfam also invested heavily in changing its work culture. Now, there is a people and culture team that includes a diversity and inclusion working group. This group asked staff, anonymously, what diversity meant to them. This gave us a lot of useful information to set up a strategy with action points.

Secondly, Oxfam International's leadership team underwent a process of reflection with external experts, who invited them to think about how safe and welcoming the organization was. It's very important to get an external voice to get that help and support. Consequently, the team revised its internal policies, such as recruitment, HR, sales, and procurement, accordingly.

Finally, a space has been set up whereby any staff member in any country can safely meet, to talk about issues regarding misconduct in terms of diversity and inclusion. This is another important step, but there's still a long way to go.

How have these initiatives been successful?

The staff survey has showed us how happy, safe, and comfortable employees feel at work, for example, whether they identify as being part of a diverse group or other useful information. Oxfam is going in the right direction in terms of valuing and respecting staff and the results provide us with clear indicators of where we need to do more. Giving staff the possibility to express how they're feeling in terms of diversity and

“I AM POSITIVE, SO LONG AS COMPANIES CAN LISTEN TO AND RESPECT THEIR EMPLOYEES – WELCOMING DIVERSITY AND RECOGNIZING IT REALLY IS AN ADDED VALUE. CHANGE CAN HAPPEN”

inclusion is a great way of monitoring their well-being.

What is your view on an enforced diversity on boards and senior management teams?

Companies need to self-reflect, address their employees' needs and find ways to implement change where it's necessary. Small steps can be taken but they need to be coherent. Having a minimum percentage of female or non-white representation on boards could be a small step if that company has identified an action plan and agrees in a democratic, participatory process, that's in line with how it wants to address diversity and inclusion. What's important is that a company's leadership is intentional, for it to influence meaningful change in mindsets and to build that deeper trust.

Are you confident that, in the future, companies will become more diverse?

I am positive, so long as companies can listen to and respect their employees – welcoming diversity and recognizing it really is an added value. Change can happen, but a company's social consciousness needs to be grounded in coherence with its values. It's a big learning journey for many companies. The ride isn't always smooth. But if companies are courageous enough to get the ball rolling by coming out of our comfort zones and asking those difficult questions, they can achieve true diversity. We all need to think about how we would like to be treated at work and what would enhance our well-being, first as humans, but secondly, as employees. ■

FUTURE-GAZING:

SUSTAINABILITY
TRENDS FOR
A CHANGING
WORLD



Rohit Talwar, CEO
of Fast Future, discusses
long-term sustainability
drivers and scenarios for a
post-pandemic planet with
Michael Jones



With the COP26 summit having to extend into an unscheduled overtime to secure a climate change deal – which underwhelmed many key stakeholders and smacked of compromise – it’s clear that even a “fragile win” for the planet’s future can be hard to predict.

The headwinds caused by an unstable global economy and a short-sighted approach by many nations seemingly more vested in protecting self-interests than the planet means forecasting long-term sustainability trends is not for the faint-hearted. Long-term sustainability strategies have always been susceptible to external forces – most notably a guarded protectionism of heavy industry from some of the largest countries and the unwieldy influence of big business. The Covid-19 pandemic, however, really was a bolt from the blue – destabilizing economies and triggering uncertainty for most nations. But how much impact did it have on sustainability trends?

“We were all pleasantly surprised that, when we had to go into lockdown, it had a very positive impact in the near term,” says futurist Rohit Talwar, CEO of Fast Future. “We weren’t going into our offices; we weren’t heating those buildings; we weren’t getting on planes. Ultimately, the pandemic had some positive impacts, particularly around energy consumption and the energy footprint of buildings. It challenged a lot of organizations because carbon footprints were slashed dramatically. We saw several big consulting firms commit to zero emissions by 2025, or 2030.”

The pandemic, says Talwar, forced the hand of big companies because, having seen some of the environmental benefits brought about by the pandemic, they could not go back to a higher overall environmental footprint. “Rather than people putting sustainability on the back foot, which had been a concern as we raced to recover revenues, what’s actually happened is a lot of people said, ‘How do we do both? How do we claw



“THERE’S NOW AN ENERGY IN THE WORKFORCE TO SAY, ‘WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING TO ADDRESS THE ADVERSE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND OUR LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY.’ PEOPLE ARE BEING BOMBARDED WITH THIS NOW AND IT’S VERY HARD TO IGNORE HOW SERIOUS THE PROBLEM OF SUSTAINABILITY IS”

back the revenues and get back to 2019 levels of income, but also keep driving down our environmental footprint?”

Many companies have since actively encouraged workers to continue working from home, meaning they don’t need to occupy so many large buildings, saving heating and electricity costs, but says, Talwar, it has also been the catalyst for more affirmative action among employees. “There’s now an energy in the workforce to say, ‘We need to do something to address the adverse impact of climate change and our loss of biodiversity.’ People are being bombarded with this now and it’s very hard to ignore how serious the problem of sustainability is.”

POSITIVE IMPACT DOWN THE SUPPLY CHAIN

This is coupled, says Talwar, with a growth in focus on impact investing from investment funds, and sovereign wealth funds as they try to fulfil “a broader social remit”. Corporations are also putting pressure on their supply chains as a way of reducing their environmental footprint, increasingly putting into their contracts or calls for proposals, requirements about the environment and requests for statements of climate policy and plans to reduce an environmental footprint in the years ahead. “It’s becoming very widespread,” he says. “Sometimes it’s being applied without a huge amount of thought, but the energy is there.”

Events, such as COP26 are, according to Talwar, “helpful to a degree”, because they give focus to this movement. “It’s a useful lens through which to focus the attention of corporates, and to show that they’re on the side of the angels.” Another important aspect is that, with all the monitoring and reporting of sustainable development goals a growing realization that, previously, much of the data was either inaccurate or irrelevant. “The fallacy around carbon offsets is gradually having a hole blown through it,” says Talwar. “This idea that you can create a market and make money out of reducing carbon emissions just by trading credits –



the marketplace won’t accept that now. We have to actually reduce our own emissions.”

THE NEXT NORMAL

So, what does a post-pandemic landscape for meaningful sustainability initiatives look like – and what will be the key drivers? For Talwar, customer pressure, market pressure and brand pressure are all key to enforce change. “That will intensify with social media. Brands are under immense scrutiny. The pressure to drive down that footprint will be essential.”

Transparency of how a brand operates will be very important, says Talwar, as will a growing focus on provenance and the environmental footprint of an entire supply chain. “Eventually, the capital markets and stock markets will start pricing your environmental performance into their assessment, mainly from the perspective of what business you could lose if you don’t get your act together.”

“WE’RE GOING TO SEE A LOT OF ACTION IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS TO MOVE THINGS FORWARD, TO BRING FORWARD OUR TARGET DATES, AND TO REWARD THOSE WHO PERFORM BEST”

Talwar also predicts “a big shift” where market analysts will rank a company’s environmental footprint, placing an equal weighting on its past performance and its future potential as a business. “So, alongside profit and financials, we’ll see a ranking of ESG credentials, a commitment to serving the planet and an innovation pipeline for the future. Once [these rankings] have a more equal weighting, that will be an interesting turning point,” he says.

The sheer costs and resources required to retrofit a business to bring its emissions down to accommodate for this additional scrutiny will inevitably have a knock-on effect on prices. So, says Talwar, “The smarter people are getting in now, getting the best grants, and [sustainability] solutions at the lowest price, delivered faster.” Eventually he says, we will begin to see “mass boycotts” of firms that refuse to adjust their carbon footprints. “We’re going to see a lot of action in the next few years to move things forward, to bring forward our target dates, and to reward those who perform best in advancing the sustainability agenda.”

Ultimately, says Talwar, it makes good business sense to act sustainably, for two reasons. “One is, it’s good to be an ethical and moral business, demonstrating corporate social responsibility – showing you are acting for a greater good. There’s an

“BRANDS ARE UNDER IMMENSE SCRUTINY. THE PRESSURE TO DRIVE DOWN THAT FOOTPRINT WILL BE ESSENTIAL”

acceptance that we need to turn clever PR into real action. Secondly, it’s a wonderful recruitment message and motivator for people. It’s a real way of harnessing ideas and energy, helping employees feel proud because they’re working for a company that cares. Customers want this more and more – it’s another good thing to have in your marketing to show you’re hitting various environmental targets, or exceeding them, particularly if you’re one of the first few to get there. That’s a great marketing story.”

CITIES OF THE FUTURE

As for wider society, sustainable cities of the future, predicts Talwar, will be increasingly car-free, sun-powered, and eco-centric. “This is about designing our cities for the real purposes they’re going to be used for. We’re going to use them less for office space and retail and we’re going to repurpose them around social activity.”

And these sustainable cities will depend on a constant stream of information to function, he says. “That’s where the Internet of Things [IoT] comes in – to tell us how everything’s working, the environmental footprint, movement of traffic and emissions. We will put sensors on everything to give us a very clear picture of what’s going on. Then we can run our cities in a way that allows them to get smarter,” says Talwar.

“Public transport will get better. Inner cities will get much greener. We’ll put vertical farms on top of or up the walls of buildings. Multi-storey micro allotments will replace shops. Public sector administration buildings that consolidate activities – such as magistrates courts sharing spaces with schools or police stations – will also replace retailers. Town centers won’t die – but be repurposed. There’s a lot more we can do to make cities greener, more vibrant, more sustainable.” ■



SUNITA NARAIN

INDIA'S LEADING LIGHT OF SUSTAINABILITY

A tireless campaigner for climate change, **Sunita Narain** believes in action that benefits all people in all countries, reports Katie Morris



DOWN TO EARTH

An environmental-policy researcher since 1982, Narain has won awards for her work on issues ranging from rainwater harvesting, tiger conservation, and air-pollution mitigation. In 1985, she co-edited the *State of India's Environment* report with Anil Agarwal, which highlighted the importance of sustainable development for third-world countries, kickstarting her trajectory as a high-profile climate activist. A prolific author and analyst, in 2005 Narain was awarded the Padma Shri civilian award by the Indian government, and later went on to receive the World Water Prize for her work on rainwater harvesting and for its subsequent policy influence in building paradigms for community water management.

Despite her impressive resume, for Narain, until effective climate action is implemented, she will continue to work tirelessly advocating for climate justice. Narain's work centers around the concern that minority voices from the Global South are being drowned out in the climate-change dialogue. "You have to start talking about global rules that are equal for all," Narain told the Climate Central briefing.

One venture she is particularly passionate about is *Down To Earth*, a daily-updated news platform and fortnightly magazine

Even with COP26, the United Nation's 26th climate change conference held in Glasgow, Scotland, having drawn to a close, climate change remains headline news, globally. The COP26 summit aimed to bring parties together to accelerate action towards the agreed upon goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement; to unite people and inspire climate action. Beyond the global conglomerate of the United Nations (UN) advocating for change, the actions of individual climate change trailblazers help to humanize this, sometimes, overwhelming topic and pave the way for ordinary people to galvanize and act.

One sustainability pioneer is Sunita Narain, director general of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) in Delhi, India, and editor of the fortnightly magazine *Down To Earth*. Tirelessly working on the climate crisis agenda for over three decades, *Time* recently featured her as one of fifteen women leading the fight against climate change for her advocacy work around impoverished communities and environmental issues in India.

Speaking at a CENow and Climate Central press briefing, Narain discussed the importance of COP26, how the world can achieve 1.5°C, and her opinion on a carbon legacy – and the developing countries it impacts.

"CLIMATE CHANGE IS AN EXTRAORDINARILY INCONVENIENT ISSUE BECAUSE IT IS NOT ALL ABOUT THE COAL, OIL AND GAS OF TODAY, IT'S ALSO ABOUT THE PAST. THE FACT IS THE WORLD HAS BURNED, AND CONTINUES TO BURN, TONS OF COAL FOR ITS WEALTH. THEREFORE, THE QUESTION OF KEEPING OIL AND GAS IN THE GROUND IS A 'CLIMATE UNJUST' DEBATE"

edited by Narain. *Down To Earth* aims to bring news, perspectives, and knowledge to prepare readers to change the world, with the belief that information is a driving force for the new tomorrow. Narain and her team's main aim for *Down To Earth* is to raise awareness of climate inequality through regularly updated news content and dedicated climate issue magazines.

THE UNEQUAL PATH TO 1.5°C
The path to 1.5°C is the elusive phrase that dominated the COP26 talks. Worldwide, scientists have agreed that keeping the global temperature rise below 1.5C is a safe limit for the world to avoid the worst environmental impacts. Significantly limiting the production of fossil fuels is a key contributing factor to tackling the climate crisis, and one Narain is incredibly impassioned about, however she acknowledges that current oil and gas production is not the only issue.

“Climate change is an extraordinarily inconvenient issue because it is not all about the coal, oil and gas of today, it’s also about the past,” said Narain. “The fact is the world has burned, and continues to burn, tons of coal for its wealth. Therefore, the question of keeping oil and gas in the ground is a ‘climate unjust’ debate.”

For Narain, to effectively tackle the climate debate we must address the inherent inequalities between countries of disparate wealth. Developed countries such as the United States and the United Kingdom, have a legacy of pollution dating from the industrial revolution and therefore have a duty to halting oil and gas excavation in order to address their past and present consumption.

For developing countries in the Global South, such as Narain’s homeland India,

“IT’S NOT ABOUT CHARITY, IT’S ABOUT MAKING SURE THAT WE HAVE A PLANET IN WHICH WE CAN SURVIVE TOGETHER”



80% THE UNITED NATIONS ESTIMATED THAT OF THOSE DISPLACED BY CLIMATE CHANGE, 80% ARE WOMEN

simply shifting away from coal is not a straight-forward option.

“When talking about keeping fossil fuels in the ground, we must ask: what happens to energy access for the very poor in the world? There is no doubt that coal is a problem, but the debate has to move towards a real discussion that asks what the timeline we’re working to is so that the countries which use coal in the past phase it out completely.”

Advocacy work around impoverished communities has always been central to Narain’s personal sustainability ethos. Today, Narain calls for a discussion that tackles future energy needs on an individual country basis that addresses concerns such as energy scarcity and the need for clean energy in developing countries. “It’s not about charity, it’s about making sure that we have a planet in which we can survive together.”

NEW ENERGY FOR THE FUTURE
Women bare a disproportionately sized burden of the global warming crisis, largely due to gender inequalities and traditional

caregiver roles. The UN estimated that 80% of those who have been displaced by climate change are women. As outlined by *Time* magazine, women are uniquely situated to be agents of change in climate decision-making. “We need to give climate negotiations a human face; make people matter once again,” said Narain.

It is not only women that are the driving force behind recent climate action, but young people are helping to enthuse the sustainability debate with a newfound energy. “The sheer energy of people, especially young people across the world, has forced leaders to change,” she told the briefing.

The next hurdle will be maintaining this newfound energy and channeling it into effective climate change action that benefits all people in all countries. Narain reminds us that we live in an interdependent world reliant on the actions and accountability of others. “Climate change is something people need to understand now. We must not divert from our mission of saying: ‘Cut now, transform now.’” ■



1.5°C

The 2015 Paris Agreement’s aim is to limit global warming to 1.5°C, but that target has been hard to meet.

200bn

More than 200 billion tons of carbon will be released over the next 30 years if the Amazon is destroyed.

FUTURE

BUILDING A BETTER WORLD TOGETHER

“The eight years that lie ahead will determine the quality of life on the planet for thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of years to come”

“CHANGE CAN HAPPEN, BUT A COMPANY’S SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS NEEDS TO BE GROUNDED IN COHERENCE WITH ITS VALUES”

CELEBRATING SUSTAINABILITY EXCELLENCE
SALUTING SUSTAINABLE AND ETHICAL SUPPLY CHAINS

11,000

In Brazil in 2020, a staggering 11,000 sq km of forest was destroyed. 2021 figures were likely to be very similar.

“Integrating climate leadership into business relationships is one of the main reasons why we’re beginning to deal with the climate crisis. The progress is undeniable”



At the forefront of sustainability

Future magazine showcases stories that focus on best practice and improvements in social and environmental sustainability.

Digital edition:
[sustainable-procurement.sofidel.com/
future-magazine](https://sustainable-procurement.sofidel.com/future-magazine)

Produced for Sofidel by:
Progressive Content, part of GlobalData Plc
info@progressivecontent.com
progressivecontent.com

Printed by:
Tipolito 2000 – Lucca, Italy



FUTURE

BUILDING A BETTER WORLD TOGETHER

ISSUE 1 / SPRING 2022