

Opening Plenary: Welcome

Moderator: Dr Simone Maynard (Australia): Principal, Simone Maynard Consulting



Simone is an independent multidisciplinary researcher and practitioner known for her ability to think across scales and complex systems. She has delivered on numerous government and private sector consultancies globally where she facilitates stakeholders to develop ecosystem services assessment methodologies and integrate them in their policies, planning and management. In 2011 Simone was invited to Parliament House to address Federal Ministers on 'an ecosystem services approach to sustaining Australia'. She is an Australian Government nominated expert to the Asia Pacific assessment of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES); she represents the Fenner School of Environment and Society (Australian National University) as an

Observer at IPBES Plenaries; and in 2016 she was Facilitator-in-Chief of the IPBES Stakeholder Days. Previously, Simone was Community of Practice Moderator for UNEP's Global Environment Outlook Asia Pacific Regional Assessment. Simone has taught ecosystem services concepts at universities. She is on the Steering Committee of the original [ACES in the United States](#); the Executive Committee of the Ecosystem Services Partnership; the Editorial Board of the journal *Ecosystem Services*; an Australia21 Scholar; and contributed to the review of United Nations System of Environmental Economic Accounts (UN SEEA) through the Australian expert group. Simone has published in books and journals and has received many scholarships and awards. She holds a Bach in Environmental Science (Ecology and Conservation Biology); First Class Honours in Australian Environmental Studies; a Dip. Community Natural Resource Management; and a PhD (ecosystem services).

Dr Carl Shapiro (United States): Director, Science and Decisions Center, United States Geological Survey



Dr Shapiro has been an economist at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for over 35 years and is currently Director of the Science and Decisions Center (SDC); and Senior Economist, Energy and Minerals, and Environmental Health. In this capacity, Carl leads SDC's interdisciplinary efforts to increase the use and value of scientific information through research and application in five science areas: (1) ecosystem services; (2) decision science; (3) resilience and sustainability; (4) participatory

science and innovation; and (5) natural resource economics. Previously, Carl was the Principal Economist in the USGS Office of the Director and Senior Advisor to the Director, where he initiated, led, and participated in interdisciplinary studies addressing science, practice, and management issues. Carl is a co-founder of "A Community on Ecosystem Services" (ACES) and chaired the first two [ACES conferences in the United States](#). He was a lead author of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Adaptive Management Technical Guide which provides a framework for consistent use of adaptive decision making for DOI natural resource management. Carl has

received the Department of the Interior's Meritorious Service and Superior Service Awards. Carl is an Adjunct Professor of Economics in the School of Public Affairs at American University in Washington, DC, where he has taught graduate courses in economics and public management for 20 years. Carl has received the American University Outstanding Teaching Award for Adjunct Faculty, as well as the Outstanding Teaching Award in the School of Public Affairs. Carl has a B.A. in Government from the College of William and Mary and an M.A. and PhD in Economics from the Center for the Study of Public Choice at George Mason University.

Mr David Mareko (Niue): President, Pacific Islands Council of Queensland



David lived the 1st seven years of his life in Niue. He grew up in South Auckland in New Zealand with his Niuean family, was fortunate enough as a child to travel and live in Vanuatu (Port Villa & Santo), New Caledonia, Fiji, Samoa and Tonga through the Seven Days Adventist Medical Mission where his father worked as a medical doctor and his mother, a nurse. After getting married to Theresa (NZ Samoan), they moved to Australia in 1996 with their children. David has a passion for his Niuean community and has always worked on bringing his fellow Niuean communities together. In 2007, David started his project with an aim to help protect our Pacific Island crops such as taro and tropical crops from the effects of global warming. He assisted the pastor at a Tongan community church land in Griffin near Narangba plant yams and Ibika. In 2010, David through his Maala

Projects community group commenced planting taro that was sourced from Townsville in the Green bank Brisbane area. In February 2017, after years of testing, he has finally worked out the taro varieties and agricultural practices suitable for the area. David currently works with the Kraft Heinz Company in Brisbane and is also a Theology student with Harvest Institute and Alpha Cruise completing his Diploma in Theology. David is a community leader for the Niuean community in north Brisbane. He was elected as the President of the Pacific Islands Council of Qld Inc. (PICQ) in October 2016. PICQ is a non-profit organisation that represents the voice and views of Queensland based Pacific Island Nations' organisations and communities.

Dr Leyla Acaroglu (Australia): 2016 UNEP Champion of the Earth (pre-recorded presentation)



As an award winning designer, **2016 UNEP Champion of the Earth**, social scientist and entrepreneur, Leyla developed the Disruptive Design Method and designs cerebrally activating experiences, gamified toolkits, and unique educational experiences that help people make the status quo obsolete. Her mainstage TED talk on sustainability has been viewed over a million times, and she leads presentations around the world on activating positive social and environmental change through creative interventions. She is the founder of the UnSchool of Disruptive Design, and two design agencies, Disrupt Design and Eco Innovators.

Hon Dr Steven Miles MP (Australia): Queensland Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection; and the Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef



Steven Miles is the Queensland Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and the Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef. He and his wife Kim are raising their three children Sam, Aidan and Bridie. It was the pending arrival of his first child that led Steven to think more deeply about protecting Queensland's environment, including the Great Barrier Reef, for future generations. He joined Al Gore's Climate Leadership Program in 2007 to learn more about climate change and inspire communities to take action. He took that training and developed a national program to teach union delegates about the climate change challenge. So far in his term he has delivered next generation environmental laws to enforce rehabilitation of mines, created new protections for National Parks, announced a ban on single use plastic bags, developed strategies to address climate

change, including helping local councils manage the impacts of sea level rise and provided record funding to protect the Great Barrier Reef.