



Water Unite Strengthens Leadership with Appointment of Four New Board Members

Water Unite, a global non-profit funding clean water for people and planet, is delighted to announce the appointment of four distinguished individuals to its UK board of directors. The addition of these exceptional leaders brings a wealth of expertise and diverse perspectives to further strengthen Water Unite's mission to catalyze sustainable water, sanitation and circular economy solutions in emerging markets.

The organisation unites corporate partners to fill the funding gaps in the water sector. Water Unite has already been supported by corporates Co-op, Elixir UK PLC, Britvic PLC and Nisa as well as The Rockefeller, Stone, Osprey and Vitol Foundations. Partnerships to date have enabled the launch of Water Unite Impact (WUI), an investment vehicle that provides risk-tolerant capital to innovative Small & Medium Enterprises in the water, sanitation and circular economy sectors in the Global South.

These new appointments reflect Water Unite's commitment to assembling a board of directors comprised of accomplished individuals who possess a deep understanding of the global WASH sector, sustainable finance and multinational corporations. The collective expertise of the board will play a pivotal role in guiding Water Unite's strategic direction, expanding partnerships, and driving impactful initiatives to address the global water crisis.



Satya S. Tripathi

Satya is Secretary-General of the Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet (GASP). A development economist, lawyer and changemaker, who has served with the UN for more than two decades in key positions across the planet, including the position of UN Assistant Secretary-General, Head of New York Office at UN Environment and Secretary of the UN Environment Management Group. As a recognised leader in sustainable finance, Satya has made significant contributions to the field of water and sanitation through his innovative thinking and advocacy for sustainable practices and a sustainable future. Satya's proven track record of driving positive change and big picture thinking will be invaluable to achieving Water Unite's mission.



Marina Pannekeet

Marina is a graduated economist with almost 20 years of project finance and distributed renewable energy finance experience. In October 2022, Marina joined IKEA Foundation as Programme Manager for the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP), an alliance of philanthropy, entrepreneurs, governments in emerging and developed economies, and technology, policy and financing partners. Before joining IKEA Foundation, Marina worked at the Dutch entrepreneurial development bank FMO in the Netherlands for almost 17 years. During this period, Marina was involved in various infrastructure and renewable energy related programmes and projects in a diversity of emerging markets. With her extensive financial experience, Marina brings valuable insights and strategic vision to Water Unite.



Jonathan Hall

Jonathan is Managing Partner of Kantar's Sustainable Transformation Practice. He is responsible for leading the team, solution development, thought leadership and business management for all of Kantar's client work across the world. Jonathan has over 25 years' experience of creating breakthrough brand, innovation and consumer strategies, and has led businesses in the UK, France and East & West-Coast US: in the fields of innovation, design, communications, brand development and consumer insight. Jonathan is also on the Executive Council for the Future of Marketing Initiative at the Saïd Business School, University of Oxford, and a contributor on Saïd's Digital Marketing Disruptive Strategy Programme, as well as the Advisory Group for the Disrupting Marketing for Sustainability course at the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership. Jonathan's knowledge of consumer behaviours and experience working with the world's largest brands adds significant value to Water Unite's leadership.



Emilio Cattaneo

Emilio is Head of Technical Assistance at the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG), an innovative project developer and investor in sustainable and inclusive infrastructure in sub-Saharan Africa and south and Southeast Asia. He joined PIDG in 2015 as Executive Director of The Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund, becoming Head of TA in December 2019. He has over 35 years of corporate finance, asset management and advisory experience across several markets, including Africa, Latin America, India and Southern Europe. Before joining PIDG, Emilio was Director of Asset Management, at Climate Change Capital, a London-based fund manager focused on climate mitigation investment strategies, including in carbon credits, clean technology and renewable energy. Emilio brings a wealth of experience of equity and debt in emerging markets to Water Unite, in particular on concessional capital instruments and how to deploy grants and subsidies to ensure a project's commerciality and viability.

"We are delighted to welcome Satya, Marina, Jonathan and Emilio to the board of Water Unite. Their passion, expertise, and commitment to improving access to clean water and sanitation through sustainable finance align perfectly with our mission. Their contributions will further strengthen our ability to create sustainable solutions that benefit communities in need." - Lord Malcolm Bruce, Chair of Water Unite.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

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IMAGES FOR DOWNLOAD:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1y-IGQBSZ8nQacJhbwiGnjy2Nv9FD8INH?usp=share_link

ABOUT WATER UNITE

Water Unite is a global non-profit working to provide clean water for people and planet. This is done by uniting corporate partners around a common collective action - namely to create a small micro-contribution from products and services to fill the funding gaps in the water sector. Large corporates including Co-op, Elior PLC and Britvic PLC have already joined and adopted the model. To date Water Unite has supported nine projects in the water and circular economy sectors, directly benefiting over one million individuals in developing countries. waterunite.org

Explainer Video: youtu.be/Q4vD1qeQr30

2021/22 Impact Report: waterunite.org/site_files/7323/upload_files/WaterUniteImpactReport2021_22.pdf?dl=1

ABOUT LORD MALCOLM BRUCE



Lord Bruce has been Chair of Water Unite since 2019. He was the UK Member of Parliament for Gordon from 1983 until 2015 through seven general elections. In that capacity, he carried a number of portfolios and served on many committees notably covering economic affairs, energy and the environment and chaired the International Development Committee from 2005 to 2015. Perhaps, most notably, he persuaded DFID to review and raise its policy commitment to the water and sanitation sector.

Biography here: waterunite.org/page/who-we-are_lord_malcolm_bruce/#lordbruce