

# Responsible Investment Forum New York 2025

## Day One: 4 March

07:45

**Value Creation Workshop in Association with the PRI**

**Aditya Vikram**, Head of Private Equity, **UNPRI**

08:30

**Introduction from PEI and PRI**

**Aditya Vikram**, Head of Private Equity, **UNPRI**

8:40

**Keynote Interview: the future of sustainability in a rapidly changing political and economic environment in North America and globally**

9:10

**How are sustainability professionals and their teams evolving and growing their influence within funds?**

- Considering different team structures: where and how can sustainability heads be most effective?
- Dealing with the increased demands from regulators and LPs around sustainability: How can mid-market managers keep up?
- What new roles are being created within sustainability teams and where are external experts being brought in?
- Successful stories of those with influence throughout the deal cycle

**Moderator, Jennifer Wilson, Re:Co**

**Avantika Saisekar**, Managing Director of Sustainable Investing, **Wafra Inc**

**Eimear Palmer**, Partner, Global Head of Sustainability, **Pantheon**

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9:45

## How US & global managers & investors are approaching decarbonization and net-zero

- Implementing best practices in portfolio decarbonization: to what extent can decarbonization be part of wider value creation plans?
- Balancing short-term returns with long-term net-zero goals
- Harmonizing Industry Standards and Initiatives including NZIF, PMDR & icl
- How some investors are requiring a net-zero plan from GPs and is this cross-portfolio at or at the fund

Moderator: **Marc Lino**, Senior Partner, Global ESG Leader for Private Equity, **Bain & Company**

**Serge Younes**, Partner, Global Head of Sustainability, **Investindustrial**

**Natasha Buckley**, Principal, ESG, **HarbourVest Partners**

**Michael Cappucci**, Managing Director - Compliance and Sustainable Investing, **Harvard Management Company**

**Tang Zongzhong**, Head of Sustainability, Private Capital Asia, **EQT**

10:20

## EDCI Annual Update: Leveraging EDCI insights for value creation

- Presenting the latest discoveries from the EDCI and a deep dive into the data
- Understanding how LPs utilize the data in practice: navigating uniform metric standards while prioritizing materiality in benchmarking
- How incorporating EDCI is streamlining compliance efforts
- Analysis of findings from the newly introduced net-zero metric and the path towards decarbonization
- Three years in: how are GPs and LPs making use of the data collected to help in value creation?

**Moderating slot reserved**

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**11:00**

**Coffee & networking**

**11:30**

**The next frontier: to what extent can addressing biodiversity drive returns?**

- How to assess biodiversity risks and opportunities in the diligence process
- Putting a financial value on biodiversity work: is this realistic?
- The interaction between climate and nature: to what extent can biodiversity be used to reduce climate risk?
- Examples from funds who are using biodiversity to drive value

Moderator: **Lis Nelis, PhD**, Principal, Ecology and Biodiversity, **Ramboll**

**Jovana Stopic**, ESG Director, **IK Partners**

**Will Relle**, Director, ESG, **HarbourVest**

**Suzanne Tavill**, Partner & Head of Responsible Investment, **Stepstone**

**12:10**

**Why and how sustainability drives value in private markets**

- Why so many GPs still struggle to approach sustainability as a strategic value driver: how to overcome this
- How are some funds spotting value creation opportunities during due diligence?
- The importance of adding sustainability to a value creation playbook
- Case studies from those who have increased returns for their funds

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Senior representative, **ERM**

**Aditya Vikram**, Head of Private Equity, **UNPRI**

**12:45**

## Portfolio company perspectives on how sustainability can help grow their business

- How are portfolio companies measuring the ROI of sustainability efforts and translating these metrics into tangible business outcomes?
- How do portcos navigate potential trade-offs between short-term financial performance and long-term sustainable growth?
- What are the success stories or case studies where sustainability has directly contributed to business expansion and market penetration?
- Learnings from positive working relationships with their GP owners

**13:15**

**Lunch**

<p><b><u>Track A</u></b> <b><u>IMPACT &amp; TRANSITION</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Track B</u></b> <b><u>VALUE CREATION</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Track C</u></b> <b><u>REGULATION &amp; FRAMEWORKS</u></b> <b>(Chatham House Rules)</b></p>	<p><b><u>Track D</u></b> <b><u>CIRCULAR ECONOMY/PRIVATE</u></b> <b><u>DEBT/GOVERNANCE</u></b></p>
<p><b><u>14:15</u></b> <b>The state of the impact &amp; transition market in North America</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is there a trade-off between delivering impact and returns?</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>14:15</u></b> <b>Driving and demonstrating returns from sustainable value creation in investments</b></p>	<p><b><u>14:15</u></b> <b>SEC and local regulations in the U.S.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is there a value creation opportunity in latest SEC regulation?</li> <li>- Who is responsible for implementation? How much are ESG</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>14:15</u></b> <b>Investing in the circular economy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Defining the circular economy and where are investment opportunities?</li> <li>- How big is the opportunity from these investments?</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How significant has the ESG backlash been on the impact market?</li> <li>- How are corporates' net-zero efforts driving opportunities in the impact market in terms of exits and allocations?</li> </ul> <p><b>Vikram Agrawal</b>, Co-Founder &amp; CEO, <b>American Resilience Partners</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To what extent are we at a stage where funds can tell a story of value added?</li> <li>- Emphasizing the importance of engaging investment teams in sustainability throughout the investment</li> <li>- Ensuring sustainability initiatives are well-resourced and supported at a senior level within portfolio companies</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: <b>Deike Diers</b>, Partner, Sustainability for Private Equity and Financial Investors, <b>Bain &amp; Company</b>  <b>Tensie Whelan</b>, Distinguished Professor of Practice, <b>NYU Stern School of Business</b>  <b>Dalia Rahman</b>, Head of Climate &amp; Portfolio Sustainability, <b>Apax</b>  <b>Evelina Olago</b>, Managing Director, Client &amp; Strategy, <b>Just Climate</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- teams working with compliance professionals?</li> <li>- Looking specifically at new laws in California and elsewhere</li> </ul> <p><b>Eric Scheriff</b>, Senior Managing Director, <b>Capstone</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How does circularity drive decarbonization and achieve net zero objectives?</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: <b>Imani Hamilton</b>, Circular Economy + Resource Management Practice Lead, Americas, <b>Ramboll</b>  <b>Benjamin Hogan</b>, Director / Private Equity, <b>Blue Earth Capital</b></p>
<p><b>14:55</b> LP panel: asset owner perspectives on allocating to impact funds</p>	<p><b>14:55</b> Sustainability during exits in a tough environment</p>	<p><b>14:55</b> SFDR and U.S. managers: tips for global funds</p>	<p><b>14:55</b> Navigating voluntary carbon markets</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is the collective pool of impact-orientated capital likely to grow in the coming 5 years in North America?</li> <li>- What investment themes resonate most with asset owners?</li> <li>- How has the sentiment for investments in climate-oriented strategies evolved?</li> </ul> <p><b>Roraj Pradhananga</b>, Co-Chief Investment Officer, <b>Veris Wealth Partners</b> <b>Charles Buck</b>, President and CEO, <b>United Church Funds</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To what extent are sustainability teams involved in exit preparation?</li> <li>- Preparing for exit: how can sustainability teams make a company more attractive to a future buyer?</li> <li>- ESG considerations when exiting via IPO vs. a sale to another PE buyer</li> </ul> <p>Senior representative, <b>ERM</b> <b>Lexi Wachter</b>, Vice President, Sustainability, <b>General Atlantic</b> <b>Jeannie Cho</b>, Director, Sustainable Investing, <b>KKR</b> <b>Ashim Paun</b>, Head of Sustainable Investing, <b>Triton Partners</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To what extent are EU investors making demands of U.S. funds due to SFDR?</li> <li>- Outlining some of the possible costs and challenges associated with this increased compliance burden</li> <li>- Is there an opportunity to gain a competitive edge by meeting requirements?</li> </ul> <p><b>Christina Bortz</b>, Deputy General Counsel, ESG, <b>TPG</b> <b>Angelo Gordon</b> <b>Jyoti Aggarwala</b>, Principal, <b>Private Capital Raise</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Outlining the potential of voluntary carbon markets</li> <li>- What role are and should carbon credits play in the returns of natural capital funds?</li> <li>- What is needed to attract more investors into this growing and important space</li> </ul>
<p><b>15:35</b> <b>Impact, climate &amp; transition investing: fundraising in a competitive space</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standing out in a crowded market: strategies to differentiate your fund amidst an influx of new entrants</li> </ul>	<p><b>15:35</b> <b>Human Capital Management as a value lever PE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Why human capital is now the number one lever in value creation</li> </ul>	<p><b>15:35</b> <b>Interoperability of different sustainability initiatives and frameworks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To what extent are fragmented reporting standards impacting sustainability professionals?</li> </ul>	<p><b>15:35</b> <b>How sustainability is continuing to evolve in private debt</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To what extent are lenders and sponsors engaging on sustainability efforts?</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demonstrating tangible value creation: effectively showcasing the real-world impact and financial returns of portfolio companies to investors.</li> <li>- Strategic Focus: Weighing the benefits and trade-offs of adopting a single-focus versus a broader impact strategy</li> </ul> <p><b>Christina Anzel</b>, Director, Client Team, <b>Generation Investment Management</b> <b>Fabio Raghino</b>, Partner, Head of Sustainability &amp; Strategy, <b>Ambienta</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Defining company culture and aligning it with sustainability and value creation plans</li> <li>- To what extent should sustainability heads work with in-house human capital operating partners</li> </ul> <p><b>Marianne Voss</b>, Managing Director &amp; Chief ESG Officer, <b>Webster Equity Partners</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Challenges and opportunities in scaling ESG Initiatives across global portfolios</li> <li>- Leveraging technology to bridge gaps in sustainability reporting</li> </ul> <p><b>Chris Brannan</b>, Assistant General Counsel &amp; ESG Officer, <b>Pritzker Private Capital</b> <b>Marion Hayes</b>, Senior Managing Director, Head of Responsible Investing, <b>Arsenal Capital Partners</b> <b>Brett Juliano</b>, Head of Sustainability, <b>THL Partners</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What tools can private credit investors use to understand where their portfolio stands in terms of decarbonisation status and climate risk?</li> <li>- Sustainability linked loans: The importance of setting borrowers useful and sector-specific KPIs</li> </ul> <p><b>Brittany Agostino</b>, Principal, ESG - US Credit Lead, <b>Ares Management</b> <b>Jeffrey Cohen</b>, Managing Director, Head of ESG &amp; Sustainability, <b>Oak Hill Advisors</b></p>
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**16:15 Coffee & networking**

**16:45 Working Group Series A**

*This working session will be open to all - interactive roundtable discussion with designated facilitators. Service providers should not join sessions led by their direct competitors but can join other sessions.*

<b>Working Group A</b> Biodiversity	<b>Working Group B</b> Value Creation Masterclass	<b>Working Group C</b> Turning regulation into a value creation opportunity	<b>Working Group D</b> Making use of ESG Data	<b>Working Group E</b> Working with portfolio companies	<b>Working Group F</b> Decarbonization
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New  
Private Markets

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New York 2025

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17:45

Close of conference followed by cocktails

Day Two: 5 March



# Responsible Investment Forum New York 2025

**08:00 Invitation only LP and GP Breakfast briefings**

**LP Breakfast - Malk Partners & ILPA**

**GP Breakfast – EY**

**09:05 Opening remarks**

**09:05 Opening remarks**

<p><b>09:10</b> <b>AI in private markets: navigating ethical challenges and unlocking opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Balancing the energy demands of AI with net-zero targets and sustainable outcomes</li><li>- Leveraging AI to identify new investment opportunities and enhance risk management</li><li>- Real-world applications: how leading private market funds are utilizing AI in sustainability efforts</li><li>- What's next for AI-driven insights in sustainability functions and long-term strategy development</li></ul>	<p><b>09:10</b> <b>Why human rights risks in the supply chain is rising up the agenda of US PE funds</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Identifying and mitigating human rights risks in portfolio companies' supply chains</li><li>- Navigating challenges in companies with global supply chains</li><li>- Learn from experienced funds on conducting effective human rights assessments of their portfolios</li></ul>
<p><b>09:50</b> <b>Managing increasing climate transition litigation risk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- What sectors are being targeted and who is bringing the cases?</li><li>- Which if any of these claims are succeeding, which aren't, and why? What are the defences?</li><li>- How can the PE community work to mitigate these risks, and how else is the PE community impacted by these developments?</li></ul>	<p><b>09:50</b> <b>Defining governance for private markets</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- What does good governance look like, and how can diversified funds standardize across varied company sizes and types?</li><li>- Where should governance responsibilities sit—under legal/compliance or sustainability?</li><li>- Examples of funds leading the way in governance best practices</li></ul>

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- How is the landscape shifting following U.S. elections; how does the anti-ESG movement impact these developments?

**Ulysses Smith**, ESG Senior Advisor, **Debevoise & Plimpton**

**Shannon Selden**, Partner, **Debevoise & Plimpton**

## 10:30 Coffee & networking

### 11:00

#### **Fireside chat: APG's evolving approach to climate and impact**

- What transition plans are expected from GPs?
- Should net-zero goals be set at the fund level or across the portfolio?
- How do APG's sustainable and deal teams collaborate?
- What is APG looking for in the sustainability teams of its partner funds
- How do we engage with the broader industry to advance market practice?
- What is the role of ESG and impact in our investment process, and how has it evolved?

**Keren Raz**, Senior Responsible Investments Manager – Global Private Equity, **APG Asset Management**

**Michael Dymond**, Senior Portfolio Manager, Private Equity, **APG Asset Management**

### 11:30

#### **Global LP perspectives on sustainable investing in North America**

- To what extent are allocations being impacted by sustainability?
- What impact is SFDR having on relationships between European investors and U.S. based managers?

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- Which U.S. sustainable investment strategies are most attractive to LPs?
- What are some best practices for U.S. funds seeking to attract investment from European and Asian LPs?

**Moderator: Eric Bloom, Re:Co**

**Ryan Malloy**, Research Analyst, Sustainable Investing, **Fiduciary Trust International**

**Karin Bouwmeester**, ESG Lead Private Equity, **PGGM Investments**

**12:15**

**ESG Controversies: A Comparative Study of Public vs Private Sectors**

**12:45**

**ESG Value Creation Case Study Sessions**

*3 short presentations on how ESG initiatives or technologies can be used to drive returns within PE investments within different areas of sustainability. The audience will have the chance to quiz the presenters after their presentations. During the lunchbreak presenters will be available for further questions over informal roundtables*

**13:15**

**Lunch**

**15:00**

**Close of conference**