



Co-Chair of Board

November 2025

Introduction

Global Canopy is at a pivotal moment in its journey. For two decades, we have been at the forefront of tackling deforestation and nature loss by shifting the flow of finance, data and power away from destruction and towards solutions. We are now seeking a new Co-Chair of the Board - a globally respected leader with the vision, influence and credibility to help us scale our impact at this critical time for people and the planet.

This is not a conventional Chair role. We are looking for someone who can amplify our mission on the global stage, galvanise high-level partnerships and work with our outstanding team and Board to seize the unprecedented opportunities in the sustainability landscape.

Why Now?

The world has just five years to halt and reverse deforestation if we are to meet international climate and nature goals - and this is a battle in which every hour counts. The financial and policy shifts needed are underway, but fragile and under attack. Global Canopy is uniquely placed to help enable and drive forward these changes, and with the right leadership, we can scale our impact so much further.

As Co-Chair, you will help us seize this moment: to make nature a central concern of the global economy, to ensure finance drives solutions not destruction, and to safeguard the living world for future generations. This is a wonderful leadership opportunity in an agile and influential non-profit that thinks a little differently. If you have the vision, courage and influence to help shift global markets for nature and climate, we invite you to join us. The stakes could not be higher, and the time is now.

Niki Mardas
Executive Director

Hylton Murray-Philipson
Trustee

Sara Beck
Trustee



About Global Canopy

Global Canopy is a data-driven not for profit delivering real transparency and accountability for market impacts on nature and people. Our special focus is on ending deforestation – an essential step in achieving urgent global goals on climate, nature and human rights.

We deliver our work via three main strategies:

1. on open data (including via major global data platforms like Trase, Forest 500, Forest IQ, and ENCORE);
2. on creating stronger voluntary and compliance frameworks to address nature loss (we are a founding partner of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures);
3. and on accelerating accountability and action by the finance sector towards deforestation-free portfolios.

Our platforms, data and insights are relied upon by Fortune 500 companies, major financial institutions, national and regional governments, central banks and regulators – and some of the most effective campaigning organisations worldwide.

We work globally, with a focus on both forested regions (particularly across Latin America and South East Asia), and major consumer and financial markets (with a focus on Europe, the US, Singapore and China).

We have a distributed team of around 75 people worldwide, with a main office in Oxford (UK). We work via close and deep partnerships, including with institutions like the Stockholm Environment Institute, the UN Climate Change High-Level Champions, UNEP Finance Initiative, the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Oxford University – and many many others.

Our Values

As an organisation committed to achieving system-wide change, we operate in a challenging environment. Our organisational values help guide our ways of working and keep us accountable to these standards:

- **Entrepreneurial** – We develop bold new ideas to catalyse system wide change.
- **Impactful** – We learn from what works, hold ourselves and others accountable and work in collaboration with others.
- **Inclusive** – We celebrate diversity, value teamwork and support individuals to fulfil their potential.
- **Clear** – We listen actively, think critically and communicate with clarity



The Role

We are seeking a new Co-Chair of the Board alongside Sara Beck. You will be - a globally respected leader with the vision, influence and credibility to help us scale our impact at this critical time for people and the planet.

Critical to success is the alignment of your values with ours. You will understand the challenges faced by forests and forest people and be passionate about finding solutions. Key to Global Canopy's success is mobilising resources to drive impact at scale and pace and the Co-Chair will need to be someone who can assist with this through high level connections and networking.

You may come from the world of business, sustainability, climate, nature, law, politics or government. You will need to understand the external environment our work exists within, be able to open doors, convene and make connections on behalf of our organisation. Global Canopy is high energy working on urgent issues and as such needs a Board that reflects the same tempo. You will be willing to take risks to achieve goals; have an opinion and a stance on the topic and be willing to use it for the organisation.

Core to this will be the following attributes:

- **Credibility:** A distinguished track record in sustainability, finance, government, international institutions or global business.
- **Vision:** The ability to articulate and champion a bold vision for system change on nature, climate and people.
- **Influence:** A powerful voice and network at the highest levels, capable of opening doors and shifting mindsets.
- **Leadership:** Board or senior governance experience, with the ability to support, challenge and inspire
- **Commitment:** Deep personal commitment to tackling nature loss, deforestation and climate change.

As our new Co-Chair, you will:

- **Champion our mission globally:** Use your profile and influence to ensure nature is at the top of international agendas, from boardrooms to policy arenas.
- **Connect and convene:** Leverage your networks to open doors to major philanthropists, investors, governments and business leaders.
- **Guide our growth:** Provide strategic leadership as we expand our reach, strengthen our financial resilience and maximise our impact.
- **Inspire and enable:** Support and challenge the Executive Director and Leadership Team, ensuring we remain agile, bold and effective.



- **Safeguard our values:** Ensure we remain mission-driven, evidence-based and rooted in integrity. This is an extraordinary chance to shape the future of one of the world's most innovative NGOs at the frontier of finance, climate and nature.

We are especially interested in individuals who can bring:

- Convening power with governments, corporates, investors and philanthropists.
- Experience steering complex, multi-stakeholder initiatives.
- A global outlook, with understanding of both Global North and South perspectives.

Finally, as Co-Chair of Global Canopy, you will contribute to our wider organisational culture of kindness, collaboration, rigour and accountability in equal measure. You will share our conviction that it is not just what we do that matters in our working life, but how we do it too.

Time Commitment:

The role requires approximately 12–15 days per year, including Board meetings (typically four per year), strategy sessions, and high-level representation at key events.

Location:

We are international in reach and focus, and particularly welcome applications from the regions we focus on, including Europe, Latin America, SE Asia and the USA. Access to our base in Oxford is an advantage, and comfort with the requirements of the UK Charity Commission essential. Our current board members are based in the UK, US and Brazil. Meetings take place on a hybrid in-person/online basis.

Remuneration:

Trustee positions are not remunerated, although reasonable expenses for travel and subsistence in relation to Global Canopy business will be reimbursed, in line with our travel policy.

Terms:

The Chair is typically appointed for an initial term of four years, with the possibility of one further renewal subject to Board approval.

Support:

The Co-Chairs is/are supported by the Treasurer, and a staff team comprising the ED, Company Secretary (the Director of Finance & Operations), Director of Execution and Planning and the Executive Coordinator.



Connecting with Us

Queries

Global Canopy has appointed Oxford HR to lead the search for our new Co-Chair. If you would like to have a discussion about the role or have any queries on any aspect of the appointment process, need additional information, or would like to have an informal discussion, please email James at jsawyer@oxfordhr.com in the first instance.

Equality Statement

Equality and diversity are at the core of Global Canopy's values. Staff are expected to work collectively and individually to promote a constructive and sensitive approach to others from a variety of backgrounds, where the work of others is valued and respected.

About Oxford HR

Oxford HR is a B Corp certified leadership consultancy. Having worked within a diverse range of institutions, from not-for-profits and charities to governments and corporate environments, we've seen the powerful impact that the perfect team can have.

Finding innovative leaders can be a challenge; and yet their transition into leadership is vital to an organisation's mission and success. We work across the globe to search for and support remarkable leaders and teams, improve their board effectiveness and support on a range of leadership functions.

Learn more at: oxfordhr.com