



Building Bridges 2024 ACTION DAYS KEY TAKEAWAYS



BUILDING BRIDGES ACTION DAYS 2024

Learn from key takeaways shared by Lead Organisers of the 2024 Action Events.

The takeaways have been grouped across the four major themes of Building Bridges 2024 for ease of presentation but many span across the themes. For more information about all events, visit: <https://www.buildingbridges.org/2024-edition/>

IMPACT INVESTING ACROSS ASSET CLASSES

Acquire practical insights and expertise on building a **youth-led Impact Fund from the ground up!**

[Intergenerational Collaboration in Impact Investing](#)
Geneva Impact Investing Association

Impact **investing in Africa** offers a compelling opportunity, not only from a return-on-investment perspective but also as **a means to drive sustainability** and long-term impact.

[Flipping the perspective – What do investees from the Global South need from impact investors to be successful?](#)
HEKS/EPER

Transforming finance requires a **systems approach** with engagement from multiple stakeholders.

[Transforming Finance: Paving the Way for Impact-Driven Wealth](#)
Coalition for Impact

AI-driven innovations can spur the creation of new financial instruments to support the funding and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and broader development financing.

[AI in Sustainable Finance: Driving Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals](#)
Geneva Macro Labs

Investors understand that **climate solutions investing requires a careful categorisation** and assessment to make sure the capital is allocated in an efficient manner.

[Climate Solutions Investing: building a practical framework](#)
Global Impact Investing Network

Guarantees represent innovative risk mitigation mechanisms that can contribute to driving investment toward projects holding positive impacts on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Examples of success abound but **raising awareness and sharing best practices remains critical to scale this solution.**

[Innovative Investment Risk Mitigation: Harnessing Guarantees for Climate Solutions Across Sectors](#)
Stiftung BASE

Shareholders have a role to play in the transition to a more sustainable and responsible world and economy. As such, they have a number of tools at their disposal that enable them to exert a positive influence on the companies of which they are co-owners, particularly with regard to sustainability issues.

[Stewardship in action](#)
Ethos Foundation

Financing Emerging Impact Fund Managers requires, (1) Stakeholder **mapping**, needs and analysis (2) enhance **communication** and **collaboration**, (3) Development of **innovative financing models**, (4) Implementation of **pilot projects**, (5) Definition of performance **metrics** and improved **monitoring**

[Matching supply and demand in financing Emerging Impact Fund Managers](#)
International Climate Finance Accelerator - ICFA

Blockchain technology offers transformative potential to enhance transparency, trust, and collaboration in finance, enabling sustainable innovation and fostering long-term impact across industries.

[Blockchain: The Key to Green Banking](#)
STORM Partners

A key insight from the DIONZ panel is that **authentic leadership, courage, and humility are essential for next-generation wealth owners** to drive meaningful conversations and action around leveraging capital for positive change. A multi-generational approach is imperative, bringing all generations into active collaboration to co-create a resilient world where both people and the planet can thrive. **By embracing these values and fostering inclusive action, families can transform wealth into a force for sustainable impact, ensuring a legacy of purpose and shared prosperity.**

[The NextGen of Impact-Driven Wealth Owners: Leveraging Capital for Positive Change](#)
DIONZ AG

The SDG financing gap critically hinders progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and progress will require mobilizing substantial capital flows towards the SDGs. **Private capital, in particular, is critically needed to reduce the financing gap.** Innovative financial solutions and cross-sectoral partnerships are creating new opportunities for private investment.

[Financing the SDGs](#)
SIFI (SDG Impact Finance Initiative)

Philanthropic investing as a concept and its role as catalytic capital is still emerging in Latin America in comparison to other regions. However, **it is absolutely crucial for social impact ventures to reach scale and maturity.** Extensive data from investors and entrepreneurs highlights the **immense growth potential of the Latin American impact investing market.** However, overcoming information asymmetries and bridging funding gaps are critical to unlocking its full potential.

[Impact Investing in Latin America](#)
Social Nest Foundation

The Swiss financial centre is among the top 3 globally for private market impact investments. Building on this strength, **Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF) launches a broad platform to further promote impact investing in Switzerland.** The new platform brings together players from the whole value chain of impact investing and serves as the Swiss National partner to GSG Impact, a global network with the objective to increase flows of capital towards an ambitious sustainable development agenda. In collaboration with Tameo, the "Stocktake of Swiss Impact Investing" Publication was prepared as a baseline for Swiss Impact Investments. SFG will lead one of the two first projects on creating a map of Swiss Impact Players. More info: <https://www.sustainablefinance.ch/en/our-activities/swiss-platform-impact-investing.html>

[Swiss National Partner launch event: Championing impact investing in Switzerland](#)
Swiss Sustainable Finance



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VALUING NATURE IN FINANCE

Investing in nature can not only transform value chains but can **unlock opportunities for investors**.

[Nature as an Asset Class - Closing the nature investment gap](#)
Lombard Odier

The **bioeconomy can play a transformative role in fostering a nature-positive global economy** and international collaboration through the G20 and COP30 can advance sustainable development.

[The Bioeconomy at the G20 - A Bridge to COP30](#)
ITAUSA Institute (Brazil)

It is crucial to **include diverse perspectives** in nature valuation processes in order to **avoid unintended consequences of nature-related practices** and to maximise positive impacts.

[A new era for performance measurement: reconciling diverging views on nature valuation](#)
Enterprise for Society (E4S)

"As-a-service" business models can accelerate the shift to energy-efficient systems, but it's not universally applicable. Public actors like the European Investment Bank play a key role in reducing the perceived risks of investing in clean technologies and innovative business models.

[Towards a Qualitative Economy - Servitization Business Models as a way to accelerate the Ecological Transition](#)
Solar Impulse Foundation

Blended Finance for Nature operations can be improved by building on the learnings and innovations by the existing initiatives on how to successfully engage private capital, maximize impacts, and foster collaboration among stakeholders.

[Blended Finance for Nature: mobilizing the billions](#)
IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)

The **Biodiversity Impact Assessment Framework (BIAF) enables consistent and comparable quantification of impact on biodiversity for nature finance and decision making** in general. BIAF works for all realms, business models and project types. It is flexible in terms of the data sources and metrics used, scores key impact paths and enables the comparison of investment alternatives. Fundraising for the transformation of this framework into a user-friendly, accessible tool to maximise impact and raise additional funds for nature finance is underway and interested parties are welcome to join us.

[The BIAF: Integrating biodiversity impacts into decision making](#)
WWF

Leading voices from film and climate advocacy to illustrate **"The Power of Storytelling" to inspire action on biodiversity restoration and climate alongside COP30 agenda setters** driving sustainable finance in the run up to Belem.

[Road to COP 30: Igniting Global Action on a Warming Planet](#)

The **Planning for a Future Beyond 1.5°C** session prioritised bold, unconventional strategies to combat the severe threats posed by climate change, nature degradation, and biodiversity loss, encouraging participants to **co-create a vision that embraces deeply adaptive, forward-thinking approaches for a more resilient future**.

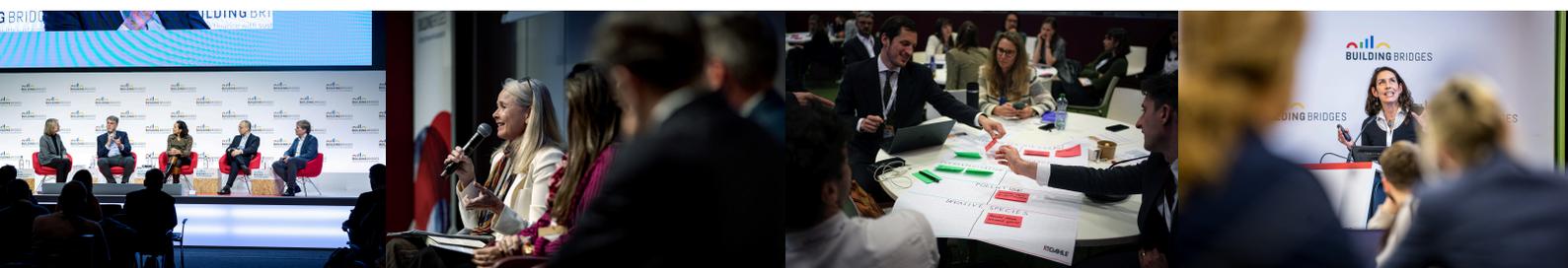
[Planning for a Future Beyond 1.5°C](#)
NatureFinance

As a pre-2025 UN Ocean Conference session, the Building Bridges Action Day event "Collective SDG14 Action: Scaling Ocean Finance & Impactful Blue Economy" convened global experts on impact investment, biodiversity finance, and sustainable blue economy. Renowned speakers presented replicable and scalable pathways, as well as emerging opportunities, to scale ocean finance.

Co-hosted by the United Nations Capital Development Fund, UBS Optimus Foundation, Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance, Ocean Assets Institute, and the UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative; **the session showcased leading models for financing a sustainable blue economy, focusing on blended finance mechanisms and innovative financial instruments that support ocean-positive businesses**. Guarantees, technical assistance and concessional finance instruments were discussed as valuable tools to de-risk ocean investments. Expert-led discussions offered an overview of case studies ranging from local to global levels - including MPA finance vehicles supported by UBS Optimus Foundation and the Global Fund for Coral Reefs, and furthered dove into challenges and best practices.

The session concluded with a number of **insights into future strategies for the post-2030 setting, including the need for a global-level financing vehicle positioned to unlock new streams of funding** - particularly from the private sector - to underpin existing initiatives and the wide breadth of sustainable ocean economy priorities.

[Collective SDG14 Action: Scaling Ocean Finance & Impactful Blue Economy](#)
Global Fund for Coral Reefs





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VALUING SOCIETY IN FINANCE

There is a rationale to supporting local communities of practice with information infrastructure that drives efficiency and practicality in shared discovery and due diligence.

[Activating the Hyper-local: Place-based Practitioner Investment Networks in ACTION!](#)
Artha Networks Inc.

The regenerative agriculture transition requires: 1. **Entire value chain and cross-industry support is needed** for successful transition (2) **Blended Finance Vehicles** need scale up and better risk mitigation tools.

[Financing the regenerative agriculture transition](#)
Louis Dreyfus Company (LDC)

Blended Finance models relying on the **collaboration between public and private investors**. Public investors can allow private ones to go into riskier territories.

[Blended Finance Solution to Mobilize Private Investment in Emerging Countries](#)
Catalytic, Convergence Blended Finance

Financing agrolistics offers a strong financial, social and environmental investment return. A key pitfall is the systemic, inter-linked nature of value chains. This requires **a holistic approach to financing; success relies on supporting and expanding capacity along the entire value chain.**

[Accelerating Systems Change through Finance](#)
Rabobank

SBGA is proof of concept for responsible gold supply chains. In order to drive greater impact and **contribute to peace and economic stability for millions of artisanal and small-scale miners**, we now need collective action, we need to scale up and we need capital market involvement.

[How a Swiss responsible gold supply solution contributes to peace and stability](#)
Swiss Better Gold Association

The discussion explored how **Outcomes-Based Financing can be leveraged to diversify funding for education**, moving beyond traditional sources such as governments and foundations.

[Moving the needle in the scale up of funding for OBF education programs](#)
Education Outcomes Fund (EOF)

The session provided context to the entrepreneurial landscape in Africa. **Showcasing Huruma Bantfu's impact initiatives that drive mindset shift and access to markets in rural communities and informal economies** as well as highlighting the Africa's first Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Index.

[Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Building In Africa](#)
Huruma Bantfu

Understand innovative strategies for **advancing gender-smart finance** and driving real-world impact through collaboration, policy innovation, and financial inclusion.

[Bridging the Gap: Advancing Gender-Smart Finance in Latin America, Africa, and Asia](#)
Sweef Capital

Risk analysis and climate parametric insurance, backed by donor-backed risk capital, can help to address the protection gap in the Global South.

[Uninsurable? How the Natural Disaster Fund contributes to close the protection gap](#)
CelsiusPro

Impact investing in healthcare in LMIC yields huge social and financial returns. **LMIC, and especially Latin America provide huge opportunities to invest in innovative, equitable healthcare solutions.** Investors however perceive the sector as high risk, and many entrepreneurs struggle to access capital to scale their business. Innovative financial and non-financial instruments can bridge this gap and provide for a smooth capital flow across the capital continuum.

[Bridging health access gaps through innovative finance](#)
Total Impact Capital

The panel agreed that **financial institutions need to increase their awareness of children's rights in their industry, should apply practical strategies for integrating these rights into governance and risk management**, and could benefit from actively promoting and protecting children's rights in their operations and stakeholder engagements.

[Children's Rights and Finance: How the Swiss and Liechtenstein financial industry can promote and protect children's rights](#)
UNICEF Switzerland & Liechtenstein

An event open to broader Geneva that united seasoned and emerging leaders to explore the essential duties to the "now" and to the "future" in fostering **intergenerational leadership for planetary stewardship, climate equity, and social cohesion.**

[Intergenerational Perspectives: Our Duties to the Future](#)

DNDi has built over **200 partnerships to find new treatments for the more than 1.5 bln neglected people afflicted.** Through Building Bridges can we build new partnerships to help find the resources for these essential new treatments.

[Advancing Global Health: Innovative Finance and R&D for Neglected Diseases](#)
DNDi



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TRANSITION FINANCE

Incentive levies are a robust way to implement carbon & pollution pricing, suitable for businesses, Swiss residents and politicians

[Can the 'Climate Incentive' be a breakthrough for Swiss climate policy?](#)
Yetik (startup cooperative)

Explore solutions for the challenges in **mobilising large-scale private capital for circular investment schemes** aimed at combating climate change.

[Mobilising private capital to tackle climate change](#)
Swiss Bankers Association (SBA) (Swiss Banking)

Provide **real-life implementation examples** that participants can learn from, and feature expert-facilitated breakout sessions targeting common implementation challenges and **promoting knowledge-exchange amongst participants**.

[How to account and disclose GHG emissions associated with financial activities: the PCAF approach](#)
Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF)

Africa presents multiple SDG Financing and high impact opportunities nuanced across multiple countries - many with attractive risk-return profiles and long term growth as the future consumer market, bread basket, young workforce and natural resource endowment of the world - **the smart time to invest is now!**

[Bridging SDG Financing for Africa – the time is now!](#)

Credible Climate Transition Plans (CTP) support businesses in achieving their commitments related to climate change. Incorporated in the organisation's strategy, **a credible CTP brings clear guidance on how to transform to a low-carbon organisation**. Onboarding along all levels, relevant KPIs and metrics are crucial for credible CTPs. Challenges that can occur are data availability, internal financial restrictions and technological barriers.

[Credible climate transition plans across sectors](#)
UN Global Compact Network Switzerland & Liechtenstein

Sustainable investing is generally compatible and in line with fiduciary duties of pension funds, such as loyalty and prudence. **Pension funds must consider ESG risk factors in their investment decision-making process as part of their fiduciary duty to manage the investment risk because ESG issues are financially material – those include long-term risks associated with climate change, such as physical damage to assets, business profits, transition risks and regulatory changes.** Active engagement and stewardship with investee companies is an element of ESG risk mitigation and thus also part of fiduciary duties.

While it may be helpful to provide more clarity on the compatibility of sustainable investing with the fiduciary duties stipulated in the regulatory framework for pension funds, the regulations in many jurisdictions already imply this and there is no need for fundamental change in regulations. While the currently available empirical evidence does not show significant differences of financial performance of sustainable investments compared to traditional ones, **a proper consideration of ESG risks in the investment process should reduce the investment risk in the long-term horizon and thus improve risk-adjusted returns.** There will be tools and systems enabling pension funds to properly measure the impact of ESG-related investment decisions, both on their financial results and on sustainable goals

[Is there a conflict between the fiduciary duties of pension funds and the demand for sustainable investing?](#)
CFA Society Switzerland

Asset owners, with their long-term investment horizons, are uniquely positioned to drive trillions to finance the 2050 net zero transition by aligning capital stewardship alongside environmental and societal impact and by thus **creating industry benchmarks for other asset classes to follow.**

[Winning the Net Zero Pathway: The Critical Role of Asset Owners](#)

Scaling local currency financing is key to sustainable growth and financial resilience, therefore: Create Trust in Local Currency: Ensure sound and prudent policies. Build Strong Markets: Develop capital markets and capacity. De-Risk Investments: Expand hedging tools and guarantees. Mobilize Capital: Leverage Development Finance Institutions and private sector.

[Scale local currency solutions in emerging markets and developing economies](#)
Staatssekretariat für Wirtschaft SECO

Impact investments in emerging markets can help address the SDG financing gaps, but such investments are constrained by two key barriers: misperception of risk and the lack of liquidity. The event "Private investments in emerging markets: solutions to scale and impact" sought to identify ways to overcome these barriers. Following a panel discussion featuring experts on these topics, among others Ana M. Camelo Vega from the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment, which is partnering with SIFI on a study on the potential of blended finance to overcome barriers to impact investing, participants sought creative ways to address these issues through interactive discussions. Regarding risk, participants highlighted that **blended finance must be used strategically, supporting self-sufficient secondary markets without fostering dependency**, and noted the role that specific actors such as MDBs and institutional investors, especially local ones, can play in supporting the ecosystem. Regarding liquidity, participants highlighted the role that **specific investment structures, such as open-ended funds, can play in improving liquidity, while regulatory improvements can clarify definitions.** Finally, participants also mentioned that the involvement of institutional investors in such relatively **illiquid investments should be incentivised** through specific means. The event concluded by inviting speakers to follow SIFI's work, which is actively engaging with these issues through its partnerships with LSFI and the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment, among other activities.

[Private investments in emerging markets: solutions to scale and impact](#)
SDG Impact Finance Initiative (SIFI)

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Thank you to our 2024 Action Event Co-Organisers!



Ensure you are signed up to our newsletter
<http://buildingbridges.org/newsletter> so you don't miss out on the
 Call for Events in early 2025 for our 6th Edition.
 Building Bridges 2025: 29 September - 2 October, 2025