

**Lord Mayor's
Sustainability & Biodiversity
Conference**

SEPTEMBER 25TH 2024
9:30 - 12:30

AT MANSION HOUSE
EC4N 8BH

AN INVITATION FROM
The Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Professor **Michael Mainelli**

SPONSORED & ORGANISED BY
Rotary Club of London

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
ZSL
CITY OF LONDON

FULL PRICE
£49
£ 45 for
under 30s

EARLY BIRD
£45
£ 40 for
under 30s

The Lord Mayor's Sustainability and Biodiversity Conference

September 25th 2024 at The Mansion House, London EC4N 8BH

The Lord Mayor's Sustainability and Biodiversity Conference - an engaging and insightful event dedicated to addressing the critical issues of sustainability, climate change, nature, and finance.

This event will highlight the City of London's ambitious efforts to lead the global transition to a green economy, as we work to solidify our position as the world's Green Finance capital.

In the heart of London, the City is pioneering a transformative agenda that integrates sustainability into the financial services sector. With initiatives focused on green finance, climate resilience, and biodiversity enhancement, London is setting the standard for urban sustainability on a global scale.

This conference will bring together key stakeholders—nature and biodiversity specialists, institutional investors, financiers, and thought leaders—who are instrumental in shaping the future of green finance.

Attendees will have the unique opportunity to collaborate, share insights, and explore innovative solutions that drive sustainable growth and protect our planet; including supporting a project led by ZSL that is part of a greater vision to restore the Thames.

By participating, you will be at the forefront of a movement that not only enhances London's economic resilience but also ensures a sustainable future for generations to come.

[Get your tickets here](#)

Thames Seagrass Restoration Project Details

Within the conference, we are launching a fundraiser for a Thames Restoration project implemented by ZSL, championed by The Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Professor, Michael Mainelli.

This project is part of a much wider programme which focuses on much-needed restoration across the Thames.

▶ Seagrass restoration in Thames estuary could restore seahorse and shark habitat

You might be thinking

Why Seagrass?

Did you know that over 30 times more animals live within seagrass compared to habitats close by which are just sandy?

Seagrass meadows are vital for maintaining ocean health and serve as habitats for diverse marine life, including shellfish, seahorses, manatees, and sea turtles. These meadows help purify our oceans, stabilise coastlines, produce oxygen, support biodiversity, and capture carbon from the atmosphere.

The loss of seagrass leads to the disappearance of these crucial benefits for both people and the planet.

*Some estimates in the UK claim that we've lost **up to 90%** of our seagrass, meaning our ecosystems are severely degraded - some of the worst environmental degradation in the world. (1)*

The small discrete project we are supporting is scoped to be restored in a specific area, and the £25,000 we are aiming to raise will go directly towards collecting and planting seeds as well as ongoing scientific monitoring and reporting.

Rotary Club of London is also looking into championing this project in the wider community and encouraging local businesses, schools, and communities to look closer to home when it comes to biodiversity restoration.

For more details about the project and its wider scope, see The [Zoological Society of London's page on it here](#).

Partners

Organising Team

The Rt Hon. Lord Mayor of London, Alderman
Professor Michael Mainelli

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[City of London](#)
[Rotary Club of London](#)

Thames Seagrass Restoration Project Partners

[Zoological Society of London \(ZSL\)](#)

[Royal Thames Yacht Club](#)

Conference Programme

08:30 - 09:30: Registration & Networking

Tea and biscuits will be available.

Conference moderated by [Ian Balcombe Chair of the Rotary Club of London Charitable Trust](#)



09:30: Event Open

Opening remarks by [Judith Diment MBE – Rotary Representative to the Commonwealth](#)



09:35 - 10:30: Speakers:

[The Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli](#)

Michael will quickly review the paper "What Happens If We 'Burn All the Carbon'?" and summarise actionable strategies for how businesses, charities, and community groups can effectively advocate for and implement policy changes. His talk will also introduce the Thames Estuary project, detailing its motivations, and underscore the urgency of addressing biodiversity and sustainability challenges through compelling statistics and figures.



[Alison Debney - Marine & Freshwater Ecosystem Recovery Conservation Lead @ Zoological Society of London](#)

ZSL will explore the critical ecological importance and extensive benefits of The Thames Estuary Restoration Project, with a focus on its role in the conservation of the Thames. The discussion will highlight how seagrass and oysters contribute to biodiversity and ecosystem health, and why they were selected as part of the Transforming the Thames project. Building on this, the talk will address the technical aspects of implementing the project, emphasising the need for meticulous planning and strategic execution.



[Candy Liu - President @ Rotary Club of London](#)

Candy will talk about RCL and how they are driving this project, touching on how community engagement can lead to real change.



[Mark Call - Member of The Sustainability Committee @ The Royal Thames Yacht Club](#)

Mark will underline the importance of the Thames seagrass restoration project from the perspective of a sailor, and relate it to the broader maritime environmental challenges in the UK and the wider world.



10:30 - 10:45: Comfort Break & Networking

10:45 - 10:55: Speaker

[Heidi Prislan - The Blue Charter Advisor @ The Commonwealth](#)

Heidi will provide insights into Commonwealth perspectives on ocean conservation, with a focus on the Blue Charter and its initiatives. The talk will also explore the financing of ocean protection and introduce the Ocean Funder Database as a key resource.



10:55 - 11:55: Panel Discussion

Financing Biodiversity Panel Discussion: Who can pay for Nature?

This discussion will explore several different perspectives, the perspective of corporates being represented by Samuel Sinclair, Co-Founder and Director at Biodiversify which is a nature strategy consultancy working with some incredibly large businesses, such as Tetra Pak and Primark. Phoebe Tucker from the Green Finance Institute will then follow up by discussing the perspective of farmers and nature developers, as well as representing some institutional investors. The discussion will be moderated by Rob Sisson, who runs a nature-focused investment firm, supporting large-scale funding of nature-based solutions.

Panicle



BIODIVERSIFY

Green Finance Institute

[Rob Sisson - Co-Founder @ Panicle Office](#)

[Samuel Sinclair - Founder @ Biodiversify](#)

[Pheobe Tucker - Nature Associate @ Green Finance Institute](#)

11:55: Event Close

Closing Remarks from **[Himanshu Jain, Rotary District Governor](#)**.



12:00: Networking till Carriages at 12:30

The final opportunity to network with attendees and speakers.