

## REFLECTIONS ON CLIMATE WEEK 2023 AND THE LEAD-UP TO COP28

FROM OUR CEO & FOUNDER, CRAIG COGUT, AND SENIOR OPERATING ADVISOR, GINA MCCARTHY

**As we look forward to COP28, we know that actions and investments that provide real and lasting social benefits that advance sustainable economies - alongside financial returns - are critical, especially in emerging markets and developing countries.**

This year's UN General Assembly and Climate Week NYC highlighted that shift from climate commitments to tangible actions, and our values and focus align with that mission, so we wanted to share some of our key learnings from the numerous events Pegasus hosted and co-hosted throughout the week.



L to R: Gina McCarthy, Senior Operating Advisor at Pegasus Capital Advisors, Craig Cogut, CEO & Founder at Pegasus Capital Advisors, and Nancy J. Eslick, Senior Deputy Assistant to the Administrator for USAID's Bureau of Resilience and Food Security



L to R: Nathaniel Matthews, CEO at the Global Resilience Partnership, Simballa Sylla, President at Sustainable African Foods, Pradeep Kurukulasuriya, Director and Executive Coordinator, Nature, Climate and Energy at UNDP

We showcased solutions and our investment activities from the **Subnational Climate Fund (SCF)** and **Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR)** that focus on advancing food security, energy resilience, as well as reducing plastics and other ocean pollution. Each of these cross-cutting initiatives are essential to building sustainable economies across the globe as we tackle the climate crisis that threatens all of us.

Our events focused on everything from how geologic and natural hydrogen can transform our energy system and decarbonize high-polluting industries, to how seaweed or black soldier flies can make food systems more resilient. The conversation about the transformational potential of hydrogen continued in more depth in a strategic session hosted by the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E), which is a US government agency tasked with promoting and funding R&D of advanced energy technologies. This session made it very clear that scaling these game-changing solutions will require multiple stakeholders from the public and private sectors and the general public to move beyond intentions to commitments if we hope to deliver measurable, meaningful impacts for people and the planet.

As an impact investor, we were both encouraged during the week to see more corporations and philanthropies mobilizing capital for climate solutions, particularly in the Global South where resources are scarcer and supply chain risks are more evident. Importantly, it seemed well understood that collaboration must extend beyond the realm of investors and encompass a diverse array of stakeholders within the global economy, including policymakers who are now more than ever, engaging with investors and the private sector to catalyze transformative systems change like the [PREPARE Call to Action to the Private Sector](#).



L to R: Erich Crompton, Director at CDPQ, Lori Kerr, CEO of FinDev Canada, Craig Cogut, CEO & Founder of Pegasus Capital Advisors, Stephanie von Friedeburg, Managing Director Banking and Capital Markets Advisory at Citi, Maria Paz Jervis, President of Ecuador Employers Federation, Nnamdi Igbokwe, Director at Convergence, Mourad Wahba, Officer in Charge at UNCDF

In addition, we were excited to see that the question of how to advance more equitable climate solutions, especially in countries that emit the least carbon, became a major focus of many of the week's discussions. For example, our partners at Yolélé and Simballa Sylla, President at Sustainable African Foods, talked about their efforts to shift West African grain's supply chain by developing an agri-processing model for the grain Fonio, a grain that doesn't require irrigation or fertilizers and fosters a more biodiverse, drought-tolerant landscape.



L to R: René Edde, Sustainable Food Systems Strategist, Accenture, Paola de Almeida, Former Chief Innovation Officer, Mars, Michael Chorske, Operating Partner, Pegasus Capital Advisors, Simballa Sylla, President, Sustainable African Foods and Chloe Sorvino from Forves at Food Tank's panel on food security and food systems change

We also saw heightened increase in the summit participants' understanding of the crucial connection between our changing climate and threats to biodiversity, especially in regards to land and ocean interconnectedness. Parley shared how they're working to end the global plastic crisis with a systemic and scalable approach enabling coastal communities, governments and brands to benefit from transforming plastic waste into premium substances. We also heard from Carbonwave which turns Sargassum – long-considered a waste – into high-value products to help displace fossil fuel and animal-based products in the cosmetic emulsifiers, agriculture, textiles, and plastics industries.



L to R: Cyrill Gutsch, Founder and CEO of Parley for the Oceans, Craig Cogut, CEO & Founder of Pegasus Capital Advisors, Dr. Sylvia Earle, scientist and explorer, Gina McCarthy, Senior Operating Advisor at Pegasus Capital Advisors, John Warner, Co-founder of Green Chemistry

**Time is running out and the stakes are too high to overlook the kinds of opportunities we heard and talked about during NYC Climate Week. But let's not forget that momentum is on our side. At Pegasus Capital Advisors, we are eager to turn insights into action, continue the hard work with our teams and collaborators, and find new opportunities to learn.**

**We are excited to engage with all of you while giving a special thanks to our existing partners.**



Sergey Nuzhdin, President and CEO at AltaSeeds, during the dedicated seaweed session

Our current partners and the entrepreneurs we met during NYC Climate Week, along with the amazing innovations they brought to the table, continued to excite us, spark our imagination, and give us hope that a clean energy future is not just possible, it's already started. We are turning climate goals and commitments into even more expanded and ambitious concrete action. Just look at the Coral Reef Breakthrough launched by the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) – a network of 45 countries representing over 75% of the world's coral reefs. The Coral Reef Breakthrough is backed by a partnership between ICRI, the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR) and the UN Climate Change High-Level Climate Champions, with the sole focus of stopping the functional extinction of coral reefs.



L to R: Lukas Walton, Founder & CEO of Builders Vision, and Antha Williams, Head of Environmental Programs, Bloomberg Philanthropies



L to R: Mahmoud Mohieldin, Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund, UN Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda, and UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP27, and Craig Cogut, CEO & Founder of Pegasus Capital Advisors



## EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS DURING CLIMATE WEEK NYC 2023

14th of September: We participated at the 'Creating Resilient Food Systems' panel at the Summit on Food and Agriculture as a Solution to the Climate Crisis organized by [Food Tank](#) and NYU Steinhardt to talk about our sustainable agriculture investment approach.

15th of September: We participated at the inaugural stakeholder meeting for [The Forum for Farmers and Food Security \(3Fs\)](#) which has been founded by Food Tank, Pegasus Capital Advisors and Producers Trust at AIM for CLIMATE 2023. The Forum focuses on helping producers maximize income through the full use of a farm's ecosystem while hastening the transition to regenerative practices that minimize the use of harmful chemical inputs, protect biodiversity, and prioritize the health and wellbeing of farmers and their communities.

17th of September: We were excited to participate at the UN SDG Action Weekend to discuss blended finance to mobilize private SDG investments in LDCs and other vulnerable countries alongside senior representatives from governments, the UN system, employer federations and the private sector.

18th of September: We were delighted to participate at the US-Africa Municipal and Sub-Sovereign Investors Forum to discuss innovative and diversified financing solutions including tapping into the capital market and Public Private Partnerships to meet current and future infrastructure and service projects requirements. We were joined by Richard Pak, CEO of our prospective investee Curvalux, and look forward to partnering with the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UGLA) in multiple ways to strengthen sub-national and local governments.

19th of September: Together with the [Global Resilience Partnership](#), we co-hosted a dynamic roundtable and breakfast event focused on adaptation and resilience strategies to discuss the importance of private sector investment to build resilience and adapt to the impacts of climate change, particularly in developing countries where public financing is limited. We were honored to be joined by Gina McCarthy, Nancy J. Eslick, Senior Deputy Assistant to the Administrator for USAID's Bureau of Resilience and Food Security, Michael Okoroafor, Chief Sustainability Officer, McCormick & Company, and Simballa Sylla, President, Sustainable African Foods. The Resilience Hub at COP28 and the PREPARE Call to Action to the Private Sector will serve as additional conduits for the messages from this event ensuring they resonate across scales.

19th of September: We hosted an event focused on Big and Transformative Ideas that are actionable. The session was moderated by Gina McCarthy, the first-ever White House National Climate Advisor and former U.S. EPA Administrator, and featured multiple entrepreneurs to talk about game-changing ideas:

- **Natural and Geologic Hydrogen** – with Geoffrey S. Ellis, Energy Resources Program of the US Geological Survey and Asma Diallo from [Hydroma](#), which is the first company worldwide to have proved reserves of natural hydrogen which are now in fact being utilized
- **Seaweed** – with Sergey Nuzhdin, President and CEO at [AltaSeeds Conservancy](#), who is a pioneer in kelp restoration, breeding, farming, education and outreach
- **Ocean carbon storage** – with Terry Tamminen, President and CEO of [AltaSea](#), who, among other things, works on solutions to leverage the ocean to remove atmospheric CO2 in a scalable and cost-effective way
- **Future materials** – with Cyrill Gutsch, Founder and CEO of [Parley for the Oceans](#), to discuss the opportunities to transform systems to work in harmony with the ecosystem of nature
- **Scaling small farmer regenerative agriculture** – with Keith Agoada, CEO and Co-Founder of [Producers Trust](#), who is working, among other things, with local farmers organizations around the world to transform and provide export markets, and with producers on healthy, productive, drought resistant rice and cotton
- **Palm oil replacement** – with Marie Veyrier, Director of Development of the [Global Shea Alliance](#), and Simballa Sylla, President at Sustainable African Foods, who work on the opportunity to make shea butter a sustainable replacement for palm oil
- **Black soldier flies in the context of alternative protein, animal feed, or food waste management** – with Ertharin Cousin, former executive director of the World Food Programme and Founder and CEO of the [Food Systems for the Future](#) who was joined by Kees Aarts, CEO & Founder of Protix, an industrial-scale producer of quality insect proteins and lipids to feed animals and accelerate the transition to a food system in balance with nature
- **New generation wireless broadband solution** – with Richard Pak, CEO of Airspace Internet Exchange and [Curvalux](#) which offers broadband connections to global populations with less energy consumption, at lower costs, and higher speeds

19th of September: We held a 2-part roundtable dialog on **Accelerating the SDGs via Digital Transformation & Sustainability Solutions** where we discussed potential for collaboration with high-profile Academic Leaders, the UNDP and Pegasus Capital Advisors. During Dialog 1, first White House National Climate Advisor and former US EPA administrator *Gina McCarthy* shared inspiring insights and UNDP shared on the ground perspectives. Lab Cofounders *Radhika Shah*, Co-President Stanford Angels & Entrepreneurs & *Claudia Thieme*, Cofounder Stanford Alumni in Sustainability proposed a catalytic initiative for public-good that will bring together top tech minds of Silicon Valley, Stanford, U.C. Berkeley and other prominent universities as well as impact entrepreneurs, with grassroots communities, and local/regional governments, to advance Agenda 2030 by leveraging the power of technology and data science innovation. Brilliant academics shared perspectives including Stanford Prof. Emeritus *Vaughan Pratt*'s climate modeling, Stanford Prof. *Ashish Goel*'s online collaboration & deliberative polling, Prof. Emerita *Margot Gerritsen*'s inclusive data-focused Women in Data Science Worldwide, and Stanford Prof. *Vasilis Syrgkanis* on causal inference & data science. *ED Carson Christiano* introduced the Center for Effective Global Action at U.C. Berkeley and their digitization innovation. In Dialog 2, we heard from African leaders, former Chair of the National Telecom Authority of Ghana, *Kwaku Sakyi-Addo*, and private sector impact investor *Tralance Addy*. Pegasus Capital Advisors Founder, Chairman & CEO and Lab Cofounder *Craig Cogut* and Pegasus Partner *David Cogut* shared context and enthusiasm for a joint collaboration during the dialogs.

20th of September: Following the game-changing ideas event, we held a series of in-depth sessions. We held a dedicated session for seaweed and geologic and natural hydrogen.

In addition, we hosted two sessions with our partner Parley for the Oceans which focused on future materials and how we can end the global environmental crisis by limiting the use plastics, removing it from the ecosystems and intercepting plastic waste to transform it into premium materials, particularly in the Global South, where communities are disproportionately impacted. We were joined by *Hannes Schoenegger*, co-founder and CEO of Bananatex, and *Maria Westerbos*, Founder & CEO of Plastic Soup Foundation to explore alternatives to plastics to end plastic pollution. We were also joined by *Shaahina Ali*, Director of Parley Maldives, to discuss a potential partnership between Parley and the Global Fund for Coral Reefs to protect mangroves, coral reefs, and ocean health through community-based and innovative business models.

We were honored to preview Parley's new eco innovation company which builds on a network of the world's leading material scientists, inventors, designers and brands to replace non-natural materials with biologically derived materials. The event featured Dr. *Sylvia Earle*, Scientist and explorer, *Cyrill Gutsch*, Founder and CEO of Parley, *John Warner*, Godfather of Green Chemistry, *Ginger Krieg Dosier*, Founder of BioMason, *Ross McBee*, C-founder and CSO of TômTex, *Eric Liedtke*, Former Board Member adidas and Founder Unless, and *Nina Marenzi*, Founder of Future Fabrics Expo.

On the 20th of September, we were pleased to host an intimate dinner with high level representatives from the Green Climate Fund, Rockefeller Foundation, leaders from the banking and insurance industry, and our lead speaker *Avinash Persaud*, Special Envoy to the Prime Minister of Barbados on Investment and Financial Services, to discuss the opportunities of the Blue Green Bank in Barbados as an example of a joint public-private sector effort to create a regional financing vehicle to overcome the existing financing challenges and constraints of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

21st of September: Gold Standard and Pegasus Capital Advisors organized "An insights workshop for Corporates - Exploring the value of impact funds" to discuss different impact fund models such as the Subnational Climate Fund (SCF), and identify opportunities for new approaches to support them. Attendees included representatives from corporations, development financial institutions, assets managers, philanthropies, and NGOs.

21st of September: Our Operating Partner, *Terry Tamminen*, co-hosted a strategic meeting with ARPA-E's Director, Dr. *Evelyn N. Wang*. ARPA-E, or Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy is a United States government agency tasked with promoting and funding research and development of advanced energy technologies. This strategy meeting discussed the funding of High-Risk, High-Reward Transformational Energy Projects. Attendees and investors identified specific sectors/technologies to be showcased at the Energy Innovation Summit next May in Dallas.

21st of September: Bloomberg Philanthropies, Builders Vision, the UN Climate Change High-Level Champions and Pegasus Capital Advisors co-hosted an investor roundtable focused on investing strategies for a thriving sustainable blue economy to promote the importance of our ocean and to discuss strategies to support commercial-scale investment on behalf of the ocean, reefs, and climate-vulnerable communities such as the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR). We were excited to hear remarks from *Lukas Walton*, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Builders Vision, *Antha N. Williams*, Environment Program Lead at Bloomberg Philanthropies, and *Mahmoud Mohieldin*, Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund, UN Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda, and UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP27.



#### **About Pegasus Capital Advisors, L.P.:**

Pegasus Capital Advisors is a leading global private markets impact investment manager. As the first U.S. private equity fund manager accredited by the Green Climate Fund, we are dedicated to fostering sustainable and inclusive growth while providing attractive returns for our investors. Founded in 1996 by Craig Cogut, Pegasus has invested over \$2 billion across seven private equity funds. For additional information, please visit: [www.pcalp.com](http://www.pcalp.com).

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