



2023 SCF Forum: Financing Just Transitions

Information about the resource person



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Dr. Charlene Watson is a Senior Research Associate in climate and sustainability at the global affairs think tank Overseas Development Institute (ODI).

An environmental economist and zoologist by training, Charlene has deep expertise on forest conservation and reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD). She has written blogs, policy briefs, and academic papers on environmental valuation, forest carbon accounting, and environmental cost-benefit analyses. At ODI, Charlene's research interests focus on the complexities associated with channelling and programming climate finance effectively and how all finance flows can be made consistency with climate objectives.

Charlene has over 10 years of experience working with governments, multilateral institutions, and non-governmental institutions on a range of policy issues relating to climate finance and financing climate action in developed and developing countries alike. She has provided thought-leadership across both technical and political challenges, for example in the effectiveness of international provision of climate finance under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. She led a recent review (2021) by the Independent Commission for Aid Impact into the Paris alignment of UK aid. She is a contributor to the UNFCCC Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows, Adaptation Gap Report, and 2020 IPCC report.

Charlene holds a master's degree in zoology from University of Cambridge, a master's degree in environmental economics and politics from Imperial College London and a PhD in environmental economics from London School of Economics and Political Science.