

**UKSIF champions key investor initiatives on “Road to Rio+20”**  
*UK trade body announces support for Natural Capital Declaration  
and Corporate Sustainability Reporting Coalition  
and highlights UK’s role as global sustainable finance hub*

**London, 24 April 2012** —At a seminar today organised jointly with the City of London Corporation and the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), the UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (UKSIF) has announced its support for two key investor initiatives for the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (“Rio+20”).

The Natural Capital Declaration, the first initiative, is a statement by the financial sector on its commitment to work towards integrating environmental (“Natural Capital”) criteria into financial products and services.

The second initiative is the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Coalition which is seeking a global convention on corporate sustainability reporting at Rio+20.

UKSIF has also highlighted the development of the UK as a global centre for sustainable finance over the 20 years since 1992’s Rio Earth Summit.

The seminar forms part of the UK sustainable investment and finance sector’s preparation for the Rio+20 conference which takes place in Rio de Janeiro in June.

Penny Shepherd MBE, UKSIF Chief Executive, said:

“In the 20 years since the Earth Summit, sustainable investment and finance has moved from the margins to the mainstream. Today, the UK is widely recognised as a global hub for innovation in sustainable and responsible financial services.

Rio+20 offers an important opportunity to advance the concerted action needed by financial institutions, business and governments to support the transition to a sustainable resilient economy.”

**Contact**

**Lisa Stonestreet, 020 7749 9950, [lisa.stonestreet@uksif.org](mailto:lisa.stonestreet@uksif.org)**

## **Notes to Editors**

### **About the UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (UKSIF)**

The UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (UKSIF) supports the UK finance sector to be a global leader in advancing sustainable development through financial services. We promote and support responsible investment and other forms of finance that advance sustainable economic development, enhance quality of life and safeguard the environment. Founded in 1991, UKSIF has over 260 members including pension funds, asset managers, research providers, financial advisers, banks and non-governmental organisations. For more information, visit [www.uksif.org](http://www.uksif.org).

### **About the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (“Rio+20”)**

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) marks the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in Rio de Janeiro, and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

From 20-22 June 2012, world leaders, along with thousands of participants from governments, the private sector, NGOs and other groups, will come together at the Rio+20 Conference, to shape the global debate on ways to reduce poverty, advance social equity, and ensure environmental protection on an ever more crowded planet. Rio+20 represents a watershed moment for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), given the conference’s focus on a more balanced, inclusive, and green economy.

For further details, visit [www.unepfi.org/events/2012/unep\\_fi\\_rio20/index.html](http://www.unepfi.org/events/2012/unep_fi_rio20/index.html)

### **About the Natural Capital Declaration**

The Natural Capital Declaration, to be launched at the Rio+20 Earth Summit, is a statement by the financial sector demonstrating its commitment to work towards integrating Natural Capital criteria into financial products and services for the 21st century.

It acknowledges and re-affirms the importance of Natural Capital in maintaining a sustainable global economy, and calls upon the private and public sectors to work together to create the conditions necessary to maintain and enhance Natural Capital as a critical economic, ecological and social asset. The declaration states that “Natural Capital comprises Earth’s natural assets (soil, air, water, flora and fauna), and the ecosystem services resulting from them, which make human life possible. Neither these services, nor the stock of Natural Capital that provides them, are adequately valued compared to social and financial capital. Despite being fundamental to our wellbeing, their daily use remains almost undetected within our economic system. Using Natural Capital this way is not sustainable.”

The Natural Capital Declaration is convened by the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), the Global Canopy Programme and the Center for Sustainability Studies (GVces) of the Business Administration School of the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV-EAESP). For further details, visit [www.naturalcapitaldeclaration.org](http://www.naturalcapitaldeclaration.org).

**About the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Coalition of Institutional Investors (CSRC)**

The Corporate Sustainability Reporting Coalition urges all nations at the Rio+20, United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to commit to develop a Convention that provides a global policy framework fostering the development of national measures requiring on a comply or explain basis the integration of material sustainability issues within the corporate reporting cycle of all listed and large private companies. We would also welcome consideration of effective accountability mechanisms, including for instance the presentation of the report or the explanation for its absence to the AGM.

The CSRC represents investors with assets under management of approximately US\$2 trillion, as well as financial institutions, professional bodies, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders. It includes organisations as diverse as the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, Global Reporting Initiative, and the Carbon Disclosure Project which acts on behalf of 551 institutional investors, holding US\$71 trillion in AUM.

For further details, visit [www.aviva.com/earthsummit2012](http://www.aviva.com/earthsummit2012).