Good evening and thank you for joining us at Gotham for our inaugural fundraiser for CfRN. As most of you know I'm Kevin Conrad, the founder of the Coalition for Rainforest Nations. I'm proud to be here tonight to speak about our mission to **Keep 1.5 Alive**. That's the globally agreed upon commitment through the Paris Agreement to reduce our planet's temperature by one and a half degrees by the year 2050. Today I hope to clarify key points around a surprisingly simple solution to the climate crisis our fate as a species depends on.

We are here tonight because every country in the world has agreed to a structure that says each country has to develop an NDC, that's a Nationally Determined Contribution. Simply put, an NDC, or Nationally Determined Contribution, is a climate action plan to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts. Each Party to the Paris Agreement is required to establish an NDC and update it every five years.

The faster we achieve 1.5, the better. 2050 is too late. Can we do it by 2035? That is our new goal. Every five years we are gonna take a stock, everybody has to submit a national greenhouse gas inventory. Where are all the emissions, and what are all the removals in my country; I've balanced them out. Together we will assess the targets of each country with the actual science of keeping 1.5 alive.

Like it or not, that is the reality we live in. Now what does that mean for governments? What does that mean for companies? Where is the tension? Why are we here? Because governments have committed to this under a treaty.

Avoidance is last millennium. Avoidance is old philosophy. Avoidance is a philosophy of saying, "Let me theorize about what may happen in the future, and give me credit for something I do today." The Paris Agreement has rejected Avoidance. It says tell me what your emissions were last year. Reduce next year. Reductions, not avoidance theories. And then we're balancing removals. Now how is it we use nature-based solutions, and how is it we introduce technology?

Having grown up in Papua New Guinea, I happen to be biased—then and now—about nature-based solutions. The thought of a bunch of technology

running around and eating up atmosphere and regurgitating carbon bricks is not my reality of a world I want to live in. I want to live in a world where we still have the nature and the biodiversity and the ecosystem that has given life to us as human beings and will continue to give us life. Technology has a role, but nature has to come first.

If you add up all the fossil fuels known to man, there is more carbon in our forests than all of the oil, gas, and coal reserves globally. The fact of the matter is if you lose our forests we fail, even if you stop emissions today in fossil fuels. So we've got to do both. We must reduce, and we must protect nature. If we're not doing both of those things, the world as we know it is gone.

So we're going to talk a little bit about SOVEREIGN CREDITS tonight. That sounds boring, so I want to talk a little about what the Paris Agreement has done, which is far from boring. The Paris Agreement has required sovereigns to take responsibility for their economies. Each sovereign has a responsibility to put in place the policies that are necessary to reduce emissions, and those emission reductions belong to sovereigns, because it's the sovereigns who have to capitalize the regulation and those emission reductions through policy.

So under the Paris Agreement, all credits are sovereign credits, they have to be authorized by the host country. They have to be issued by the host country. And they have to be adjusted by the host country. That is what every country in the world has already agreed to. It's not voluntary anymore; it is about national commitments and a global accounting system.

So how does a corporation get involved in this; let me just explain it quickly. If Papua New Guinea is reducing emissions and it has OVER exceeded its goal, it has the right under the Paris Agreement to SELL its excess to someone who can't meet their goal. That credit is called ITMO: International Transfer Mitigation Outcome. So when the Democratic Republic of the Congo overexceeds its goal, that excess can be sold to Switzerland, which is currently 9 million tons out of a whack with its carbon cut, if you will. And that is balance. As long as DRC takes it out of its inventory and it goes into the inventory of Switzerland, we have balance.

But we have to avoid doublecounting, and this is about standards—we have to avoid the Carbon Tower of Babel; it doesn't work if Switzerland is using one standard and the DRC is a different carbon standard. Each NDC has to use the use the same standard so we have transferability; we have to use the same standard so that transfers go from one NDC into another NDC and they FIT. That's the ONLY way that we as a globe are going to reduce emissions. That is what every country has already agreed to. No matter where you live, your government has agreed to this. It's the future.

So you're gonna meet some countries tonight that under the Paris Agreement are reducing emissions according to the globally agreed standards and have emission reductions. They have done it, the poorest of the world. Those who the politicians in New York and Washington call corrupt. Those who under the REDD+ mechanism have saved 9 billion tons of emissions.

The poorest and the most "corrupt"—and I say that in quotes—have executed, but they've now done that without being paid. They have shown good faith. They have committed to reducing their rate of deforestation; it has been achieved, and the global financial community has left them without valuing their assets, and that's why we're here tonight. You need to hear their story. You need to understand how you can help. You need to understand how you can become part of our global accounting system, and you need to understand how you can be Paris compliant. Thank you. Bon Learning at Bon Appétit.