Dr Nancy R. Irwin

SCIENTIST · ENTREPRENEUR · AUTHOR · ADVISOR



Finding the gaps that matter.

A scientist, entrepreneur and founder who has spent 25 years turning ambitious ideas into results: a species new to science, businesses built, rainforest protected, a national standard co-authored, and programmes reaching more than 21,000 farmers.

She's also survived a near-fatal accident, which rather changed her perspective on what constitutes a crisis.

From rainforests to international conferences, she brings extraordinary stories, scientific curiosity and dark humour to talks on resilience, leadership and finding the gaps that matter.

Consultancy | **Development** | **Conservation** | **Community**

SIGNATURE TALKS

Was nearly dying the best career move I ever made?

Resilience, perspective and making decisions when everything feels fatal.

Leave able to make clearer decisions under pressure, laugh at yourself, and keep any crisis in proportion.

Diagnose before you prescribe.

Are you solving the real problem, or just the most obvious one?

Learn to spot the real problem before wasting time and money solving the wrong one.

Finding the gaps that matter.

The biggest opportunities are often hiding in what everyone else overlooks.

Learn to see the overlooked opportunities and unexpected solutions that others walk straight past.

From a fruit bat to the UN.

An unconventional career, and what happens when curiosity leads the way.

From discovering a new species to speaking on international stages. A story of curiosity, courage and the unexpected places they can take you.

WHAT I SPEAK ABOUT

- Resilience and decision-making
- Women in science and enterprise
- Sustainable development that works
- Agricultural finance and inclusion
- Conservation and communities
- Papua New Guinea and the Pacific

CREDENTIALS

- Honorary Doctorate, University of York, 2026
- Keynote speaker, APEC, Guangzhou, 2026
- Discovered a fruit bat species new to science
- 14 peer-reviewed scientific publications
- Co-author, Papua New Guinea's Sustainable Vanilla Standard

“She gave two excellent talks that sparked discussion across the room, and she was a dynamic member of our delegation. We will rehire her at every opportunity. Her skills as a speaker and advocate are second to none.”

Kamis Yalakum, Manager, Investment Promotion Authority, PNG



Keynote, APEC China 2026, Guangzhou

Looking for a speaker who'll make your audience think, laugh and see things differently?

Book Nancy for your event

Keynotes · Conferences · Panels · Workshops

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