



Nature-Positive Infrastructure Mainstreaming Biodiversity to Safeguard People and the Planet



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15 December 2022 | 12:30 – 17:30 ET
Nature Positive Pavilion

Overview

It is time to rethink our infrastructure future.

Infrastructure is the fundamental human enterprise that we must get right or risk undermining our chances of restoring biodiversity and a healthy climate.

The global biodiversity framework (GBF) presents a unique opportunity to drive a global shift toward inclusive nature- and climate-positive infrastructure that meets humanity's aspirations while restoring a thriving planet. Given its profound long-term effects, infrastructure must remain clear and visible in the final GBF.

This half-day exploration will celebrate new initiatives, unpack lessons learned, and unveil innovations on how to build back biodiversity with increased resilience and connectivity through a participatory and integrated approach at scale. New norms must emerge that incorporate early planning, careful design, and strong safeguards; embrace and respect the voices of all stakeholders, including vulnerable populations, Indigenous peoples, and local communities; restore and manage natural infrastructure; generate an ecosystem-friendly energy future; and accelerate the growing wave of investor interest in financing biodiversity-positive, climate-smart, and equitable infrastructure. Each is an essential element of a new paradigm for infrastructure that must evolve in order to achieve our goal of restoring a healthy and thriving planet.

Recording: [Nature Positive Youtube Channel](#)

Sessions

ALIGN Launch | 12:30

The USAID-funded ALIGN Project will help enhance the capacity of Asian countries to avoid, lessen, or mitigate adverse impacts on nature from linear infrastructure development by implementing effective safeguards.

Opening Session | 13:30

Keynote speakers from the International and European Policy Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development will set the scene for this half-day program on nature-positive infrastructure.

Keeping Big Cat Connectivity Intact in an Infrastructure-Fragmented World | 14:00

This session will examine how to achieve a world with jaguars, snow leopards, lions, and tigers *and* the infrastructure we need, through well-planned, designed, and constructed infrastructure that enhances connectivity for both people and nature.

Seeking Sustainable Infrastructure in the Amazon | 14:45

Is it possible to guarantee nature-positive infrastructure that safeguards people and the planet in the Amazon, an area at risk of an ecological point of no return? How and by whom?

Securing the Energy Transformation with Nature-Safe Renewables | 16:00

How can the world meet targets for renewable energy while avoiding major impacts on biodiversity on land and at sea? Hear perspectives from business, science, and finance experts.

Nature-Positive Infrastructure Financing: The Role of Multilateral Development Banks | 16:45

Join MDBs in a discussion on how to effectively incentivize infrastructure investment that maximizes social objectives and enhances biodiversity—at the speed and scale the world needs.

Speakers

ALIGN Launch

- **Dr. Heather Tallis**, Assistant Director for Biodiversity and Conservation Science, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy
- **Mr. Michael Schiffer**, Assistant Administrator, Asia Bureau, United States Agency for International Development
- **Dr. Mary Melnyk**, Environmental Security and Resilience Division Chief, Asia Bureau, United States Agency for International Development
- **Mr. Robert Ament**, Linear Infrastructure Ecology Technical Director, ALIGN Project, and Senior Conservationist, Center for Large Landscape Conservation
- **Ms. Karma Yangzom**, Principal Environment Specialist, Safeguards Review Division and Environment Thematic Group, Asian Development Bank
- **Mr. Megh Nath Kafle**, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Forests and Environment and Head of the Biodiversity Unit, Nepal
- **Mr. Purev Tsogtsaikhan**, Head of the Fauna and Flora Division of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Mongolia
- **Mr. J. Justin Mohan**, Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority, India
- **Ms. Kate Newman**, Vice President, Sustainable Infrastructure and Public Sector Initiatives, WWF (moderator)

Keynote Speakers

- **Dr. Madhu Rao**, Chair, International Union for Conservation of Nature, World Commission on Protected Areas
- **Ms. Eva Kracht**, Director-General for International and European Policy, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany
- **Ms. Annemarie Straathof**, Vice President and Chief Risk Officer, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Keeping Big Cat Connectivity Intact in an Infrastructure-Fragmented World

- **Ms. Aliya Shalabekova**, Vice Minister, Ministry of Ecology, Geology, and Natural Resources, Kazakhstan
- **Dr. María José Villanueva**, Conservation Director, WWF-Mexico
- **Dr. Tobias Nyumba**, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Development Corridor Partnership, African Conservation Centre, Nairobi
- **Dr. Koustubh Sharma**, International Coordinator, Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program, and Assistant Director of Conservation Policy and Partnerships, Snow Leopard Trust
- **Dr. Vinod Mathur**, Former Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority of India, and Former Director, Wildlife Institute of India
- **Ms. Deb Davidson**, Vice President, Center for Large Landscape Conservation (moderator)

Seeking Sustainable Infrastructure in the Amazon

- **Mr. Ray Victorine**, Director, Business and Conservation Initiative, Wildlife Conservation Society
- **Mr. Padu Franco**, Regional Director for Andes, Amazonia and Orinoquia, Wildlife Conservation Society
- **Ms. Paola Naccarato**, Director of the Amazon Waters Initiative, Wildlife Conservation Society-Peru
- **Ms. Cristina García**, Program Senior Officer, Landscape Management and Climate, WWF-Ecuador
- **Ms. Ximena Barrera**, Director of Government Relations and International Affairs, WWF-Colombia
- **Ms. Paula Bueno**, Policy Advocacy Specialist, WWF-Colombia (moderator)

Securing the Energy Transformation with Nature-Safe Renewables

- **Ms. Mayando Kanyanta Chilembo**, Senior Ecosystems Analyst, Ministry of Green Economy, Zambia
- **Mr. Nathan Cummins**, Director, Renewable Energy Programs, The Nature Conservancy
- **Mr. Alberto Ninio**, General Counsel, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- **Mr. Benj Sykes**, Vice President of UK Environment, Consents, and External Affairs, and Head of Ørsted's Centre of Environmental Expertise
- **Ms. Ariane Kaploun**, Head of Nature Initiatives, AXA Climate Insurance
- **Mr. Steven Dickinson**, Group Biodiversity Specialist & Senior Environment Advisor, TotalEnergies SE
- **Ambassador Darci Vetter**, Global Head, Policy and Government Relations, The Nature Conservancy (moderator)

Nature-Positive Infrastructure Financing: The Role of Multilateral Development Banks

- **Dr. Juan Pablo Bonilla**, Manager of the Climate Change and Sustainable Development Sector, InterAmerican Development Bank
- **Dr. Adonai Herrera-Martinez**, Director of the Environment and Sustainability Department, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- **Dr. Valerie Hickey**, Global Director for Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy, World Bank
- **Ms. Eva Mayerhofer**, Head of Environment Policy Unit, Lead Biodiversity Specialist Environment, Climate and Social Office, European Investment Bank
- **Dr. Francesco Ricciardi**, Senior Environment Specialist, Asian Development Bank
- **Dr. Vanessa Ushie**, Acting Director, African Natural Resources Management and Investment Centre, African Development Bank Group
- **Ms. Christine Mwangi**, Regional Coordinator, Africa Sustainable Investments and Infrastructure, WWF-Kenya (moderator)

COP15
naturepositive.org/cop15livestream



2022 Montreal Biodiversity Conference

#NaturePositive

Project Launch: Asia's Linear Infrastructure safeGuarding Nature (ALIGN)

15/12/22 12:30 p.m. ET Nature Positive Pavilion

Join us as we launch this U.S. Agency for International Development project that will strengthen infrastructure safeguards that conserve natural resources and support livelihoods in Asia.

Lunch will be served.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



CENTER
for
LARGE LANDSCAPE
CONSERVATION



Speakers

**Dr. Heather Tallis**

Dr. Heather Tallis is the Assistant Director for Biodiversity and Conservation Sciences and the Acting Director of the National Nature Assessment in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. She has deep experience advancing science and policy that bridges nature, the economy and health. She provides evidence-based input to the Biden-Harris Administration's America the Beautiful effort, leads cross agency action on nature-based solutions, and with the US Global Change Research Program, established the National Nature Assessment.

**Mr. Michael Schiffer**

Mr. Schiffer is Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Asia, United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Previously he has served as senior advisor and counselor on the Democratic Staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asia in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs, and U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein's (D-CA) national security adviser and legislative director.

**Dr. Mary Melnyk**

Dr. Melnyk is the Environmental Security and Resilience Division of the Bureau for Asia, United States Agency for International Development (USAID). She has 30 years experience working on community development, biodiversity conservation and the environment in Latin America and Asia. She has been in the Asia Bureau since 2001 and is currently engaged in USAID efforts to address water security, glacier retreat and the conservation of tigers and snow leopards. She has also developed and facilitated public-private sector alliances linking environmentally-sustainable and socially-responsible products to markets.

**Mr. Robert Ament**

Mr. Ament is CLLC Senior Conservationist and ALIGN Project infrastructure ecology technical director. He leads CLLC's efforts in advancing conservation of ecological connectivity and landscape integrity. An expert in natural resource safeguards for linear infrastructure, he has 30+ years' experience in ecology, natural resource management, and environmental policy.

**Ms. Karma Yangzom**

Ms. Yangzom is the Principal Environment Specialist at ADB responsible for managing environmental safeguards of investment projects in the transport, agriculture and natural resources, and private sectors. She has been an active promoter and implementer of biodiversity-friendly transport infrastructure in ADB financed projects in South Asia for over 10 years.

Mr. Megh Nath Kafle

Mr. Kafle is the Joint Secretary, Environment and Biodiversity Division, Ministry of Forests and Environment. He has worked for National Parks in Nepal.

Mr. Purev Tsogtsaikhan


Dr. Tsogtsaikhan is the Head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Management of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Mongolia. He worked as a Head of the department at the Center for Freshwater Resources Conservation and was a senior biologist at the "Mongol Tul" Foundation for Nature Conservation.

Mr. J. Justin Mohan

Mr. Mohan is Secretary of the National Biodiversity Authority. He leads its efforts on the conservation of biological resources. He has 21 years of experience in biodiversity conservation, project management, infrastructure development, rehabilitation and development of conflict areas, agriculture, horticulture, groundwater, and forest management.

**Ms. Kate Newman (moderator)**

Ms. Newman is Vice President, Sustainable Infrastructure specializing in conservation planning and policy support for infrastructure sustainability in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. In 30+ years at WWF, she has worked across biomes and sectors on achieving a harmonious balance between conservation and development and enhancing government/civil society collaboration



Opening session

Thursday, 15 Dec | 16:45 – 17:30 ET
Large Room | Nature Positive Pavilion

Keynote Speakers will set the scene for this half-day program on Nature Positive Infrastructure

With its rapid growth, the highly impactful infrastructure sector must play an increasing role in reversing the current trends in climate change and biodiversity loss, delivering net-zero and nature-positive outcomes. This unique half-day event will feature a range of sessions on mainstreaming biodiversity to safeguard people and the planet.



Speakers

Dr. Madhu Rao

Dr. Madhu Rao is the Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), Senior Advisor of the Wildlife Conservation Society, and an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Singapore with over 25 years of experience with designing and supporting the implementation of conservation field programmes across Asia



Ms. Eva Kracht

Ms. Eva Kracht is the Director-General for International and European Policy, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Germany. She joined the Federal Environment Ministry in 2003, working on constitutional reform. She studied law in Heidelberg and Cologne and completed an LLM programme at the School for Oriental and African Studies, London, and a PhD at Bonn University, focusing on international environmental law.



Ms. Annemarie Straathof

Ms. Straathof joined the EBRD as the Vice President Risk and Compliance and Chief Risk Officer in December 2019. She has a broad international experience in risk management and finance, with a number of executive roles at Rabobank prior to EBRD, where she inter alia oversees EBRD's environmental, climate and social risk management activities.



Keeping Big Cat Connectivity Intact in an Infrastructure-Fragmented World

Thursday, 15 Dec | 14:00 – 14:45 ET
Large Room | Nature Positive Pavilion

This session will examine how to achieve a world with jaguars, snow leopards, lions, and tigers *and* the infrastructure we need through well-planned, designed, and constructed infrastructure that enhances connectivity for both people and nature.

Livestream:

www.naturepositive.org/cop15livestream

Speakers



Ms. Aliya Shalabekova

Ms. Shalabekova is the Vice Minister of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan. She is a graduate of the Kazakh State Academy of Management, the Kazakh State Law University, the Academic of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Columbia University. Throughout her professional career, she worked at the Ministry of Justice, the Kazakh Agency for Land Resources Management, the High Party School of the Nur Otan Party, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Water Resources, the Ministry of Energy.



Dr. María José Villanueva

Dr. Villanueva specializes in biology, genetics and conservation of marine mammals, natural resource management, and sustainable development and protected natural areas. She has coordinated alliances with 50+ local NGOs and indigenous communities and continuously works with the government and the private sector to conserve Mexico's biodiversity. She also leads the Jaguar Regional Initiative in Latin America.

Dr. Tobias Nyumba

Dr. Nyumba is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow for the Development Corridor Partnership based at African Conservation Centre in Nairobi.



Dr. Koustubh Sharma

Dr. Sharma serves as the Assistant Director of Conservation Policy and Partnerships with the Snow Leopard Trust, and as the International Coordinator of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystems Protection Program. He has more than 20 years of experience in population ecology, data visualization, conservation policy, and technology.



Dr. Vinod Mathur

Dr. Mathur served as Dean and Director, Wildlife Institute of India (WII); Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority; and Regional Vice-Chair, IUCN-World Commission on Protected Areas. He is currently member of the United Nations Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Bureau. His areas of interest include biodiversity governance, wildlife management and green infrastructure development.



Ms. Deb Davidson (moderator)

Ms. Davidson serves as Vice President at the Center for Large Landscape Conservation (CLLC). She directs partnership development, program management, strategic planning, and fundraising for the Center and its domestic and global connectivity conservation programs. Deb has worked in conservation philanthropy, landscape conservation and wildlife corridor protection programs for over 20 years.



Thursday, 15 Dec | 14:45 – 15:30 ET
Large Room | Nature Positive Pavilion

Is it possible to guarantee nature-positive infrastructure that safeguards people and the planet in the Amazon, an area that risks the point of no return on its ecological functions? Who may be involved?

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Speakers



Mr. Ray Victurine

Mr. Victurine is the Director for the Business and Conservation Initiative at Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), has over 25 years' experience addressing conservation and sustainable development in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Currently, he engages with industry and governments to support policies and practices balancing conservation and development objectives through actions aimed at reducing and compensating for impacts on biodiversity.



Mr. Padu Franco

Mr. Franco is the Regional Director for Andes, Amazonia and Orinoquia at the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)



Ms. Paola Naccarato

Ms. Naccarato is the Director of the Amazon Waters Initiative at Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Peru, has 30+ years of experience working on health, gender, migration, Indigenous Peoples living in isolation and initial contact, infrastructure, and environmental management; working both in the public and private sectors.



Ms. Cristina García

Ms. Cristina García is a Program Senior Officer on Landscape Management and Climate at WWF-Ecuador



Ms. Ximena Barrera

Ms. Barrera is Director of Government Relations and International Affairs at WWF-Colombia, leading national and LAC regional-level policy and advocacy. Under her leadership, for the past 22 years, WWF Colombia has influenced the development of innovative policies, environmental and sectoral strategies, and financing mechanisms, working in partnership with the government, companies, financial institutions, donors, and multilaterals.



Ms. Paula Bueno (moderator)

Ms. Bueno is a Policy Advocacy Specialist at WWF-Colombia

Speakers



Ms. Mayando Kanyanta Chilembo

Ms. Chilembo is the Senior Ecosystems Analyst at the Ministry of Green Economy, Zambia. She has over 20 years of professional experience in environmental management with a focus on integrated ecosystem management. She works with a range of stakeholders, including local communities and government departments at all levels.



Mr. Nathan Cummins

Mr. Cummins leads the renewable energy strategy and policy for The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Great Plains programs, focusing on accelerating renewable energy deployment while protecting lands and waters throughout the region. Prior to joining TNC, he worked at the White House Council on Environmental Quality on public engagement for the Obama Administration's environmental initiatives.

Mr. Alberto Ninio

Mr. Ninio is on the General Council, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), advises the President and governance bodies and is responsible for the legal aspects of the Bank's work. He was Director General, AIIB Operational Services Department; Deputy General Counsel for Operations, World Bank; and Global Sustainability Director at Vale S.A.; and brings over 30 years of experience in international development, environmental law and corporate responsibility.



Mr. Benj Sykes

Mr. Sykes is Ørsted Vice President, Head of Environment, Consenting & External Affairs, leading UK teams on business growth, setting and delivering sustainability and environmental agendas, and managing the company's relationships across government, authorities and NGOs. He was UK Country Manager, co-chaired the Offshore Wind Industry Council, and served on the Advisory Panel on Highly Protected Marine Areas.



Ms. Ariane Kaploun

Ms. Kaploun is AXA Climate's Nature-based Solutions Domain Leader. Before joining, she had worked for major financial services companies as a strategy consultant and was struck by the pivotal role of finance in tackling climate change. Today, her focus is to create positive interactions between nature, climate and AXA Climate's activities.



Mr. Steven Dickinson

Mr. Dickinson is Group Biodiversity Specialist and Senior Environment Advisor, TotalEnergies SE. He is the biodiversity lead for TotalEnergies, a broad energy company present in 130 countries. He oversees the group's biodiversity program, working on company policy, rules, tools and partnership development and has a biodiversity advisory role across all company activities.



Ambassador Darci Vetter (moderator)

Ambassador Vetter leads TNC's policy and government relations work to achieve transformational outcomes for people and nature. An expert in international trade, agriculture and environmental policy, Ms. Vetter previously served as the U.S. Chief Agricultural Negotiator and U.S. Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture and grew up on an organic farm in Nebraska.

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Speakers



Dr. Juan Pablo Bonilla

Dr. Bonilla is Manager of Inter-American Development Bank's (IDB) Climate Change and Sustainable Development Sector and was Chief of Staff to the Executive Vice President. Previously he was on the UN Clean Development Mechanism Executive Board and in Colombia, was principal advisor to the Vice President, Deputy Minister of Environment, and acting Minister of Environment, Housing and Territorial Development.



Dr. Adonai Herrera-Martinez

Dr. Herrera-Martínez is the Director of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's (EBRD) Environment and Sustainability Department and leads the team determining the Paris alignment and green finance attribution, monitoring and reporting for the Bank. Prior to this, he coordinated sustainable energy activities for EBRD in Turkey.

Dr. Valerie Hickey

Dr. Hickey is the Global Director for Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy at the World Bank



Ms. Eva Mayerhofer

Ms. Mayerhofer is Head of European Investment Bank's (EIB) Environment Policy Unit in the Sustainability and Quality Management Department and Lead Biodiversity Specialist. She has over 20 years of experience in environmental impact assessment, natural resource management and biodiversity conservation across Europe, Asia, the Pacific, and Africa.



Dr. Francesco Ricciardi

Dr. Ricciardi is a Senior Environment Specialist at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) with over 12 years of experience in Europe, Asia and South America working on environment and ecology, including renewable energy plants, large coastal infrastructure projects, and natural resources development and protection.



Dr. Vanessa Ushie

Dr. Ushie is Acting Director of African Development Bank Group's (AfDB) African Natural Resources Management and Investment Centre. She oversees their policy work and interventions on the management of natural resources for sustainable development and serves as Manager of the Centre's Policy Analysis Division, leading economic and policy analyses on natural resource management.



Ms. Christine Mwangi (moderator)

Ms. Mwangi, CFA, is Regional Coordinator of the Africa Sustainable Investments and Infrastructure Programme at WWF-Kenya. She is a Sustainable Finance professional passionate about sharing and advancing her knowledge on optimal blended utilization of natural and financial capital to support development of nature-positive infrastructure in Africa through policy, advocacy and innovation