

BIOECON XXIII conference, September 4th – 6th 2022



Panel Session 2: Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services Finance Solutions: Investing in Nature to support the SDG agenda.

Organised by: Andrew Seidl (Colorado State) & Paulo A.L.D. Nunes (FAO)

September 6th, 9am UK time

Overview:

Natural capital and ecosystem services is the direct focus of two Sustainable Development Goals: Life Below Water (SDG 14) and Life on Land (SDG 15) and contributes to many other goals. In global terms, natural capital and ecosystem services finance needs are on the order of \$440 billion per year (twice the GDP of Portugal for 2021 or about the GDP of South Africa, for the same year).

Current financial support for biodiversity is about \$140 billion per year, with as much as 80% derived from public sources. Meanwhile, climate finance stands at approximately \$600 billion per year with about half derived from private sources. To be sure, part of our challenge is in measurement. But mobilizing new resources, redirecting subsidies harmful to biodiversity, and improving program and policy delivery toward biodiversity positive outcomes requires us to measure better across all sectors and sources of investment to manage better.

To bridge this gap, sine qua non condition to the SDG agenda, a shift is required towards new investment and fiscal policy paradigms that better incorporate the economic value of Natural Capital and its impact (often invisible in the current market's system) on supporting employment in local economies, food security and nutrition and, ultimately, supporting sustainable development.

Natural capital and biodiversity finance solutions include environmental fiscal reform, biodiversity offsets, environmental trust funds, debt-for-nature-swaps, impact investing, markets for green and bio-based products, and biodiversity income options into financial planning processes of government and the private sector.

In this context, this Policy Session provides a forum to highlight recent advances and opportunities in meeting the global biodiversity and ecosystem services finance challenge for a prosperous future. The panelists include international and national public and private sector initiatives, academic researchers and implementing organizations are developing, testing and adapting finance tools to bridge the local, national and global investment gap.

Moderator

- Andrew Seidl (Colorado State University/UNDP-BIOFIN)

Panelists

- Emily McKenzie (Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures)
- Katia Karousakis (OECD)
- Onno van den Heuvel (UNDP-BIOFIN)
- Fiona Elizabeth Stewart (World Bank)

Closing Remarks:

- Paulo ALD Nunes (UN-FAO)