

Sustainable Infrastructure Day

Rio Conventions Pavilion

Convention on Biological Diversity, 14th Conference of the Parties
Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt
Saturday, November 17, 2018
Lunch 13:00 | Event 13:30 – 18:00

Cosponsored by: The Nature Conservancy (TNC), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Asian Development Bank, UNDP, Global Environment Facility, European Investment Bank, Large Landscapes Coalition, Infra-Eco Network Europe, IISD, Ram Rating Services Malaysia

Objective

Sustainable Infrastructure Day takes place at the start of COP 14 – setting the scene for two weeks of discussions and debates on the fundamental importance of mainstreaming biodiversity into our development processes. Thematic sessions over the course of the day will build a comprehensive picture of the role sustainable infrastructure plays in linking major themes and targets of the CBD as well as UNFCCC, UNCCD and other conventions. The sessions will provide opportunities to support the CBD's mainstreaming agenda by exploring the necessary policy steps to ensure that biodiversity is fully incorporated and protected in infrastructure finance and development globally. Speakers will also explore practical solutions for achieving sustainable infrastructure at all levels, from planning to implementation.

Overview

The public and private sectors are expected to invest \$90 trillion in major infrastructure projects between now and 2030 - essentially doubling the amount of infrastructure on Earth and transforming the surface of the planet. These investments have potential to cause significant harm to biodiversity and the natural environment by destroying or increasing fragmentation of habitat, blocking essential wildlife corridors, depleting nonrenewable resources, and increasing pollution and direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, new infrastructure investments are not only desirable, but in fact essential for delivering low-carbon and resilient solutions that provide for the food, energy and well-being needs of a growing global population. Smart infrastructure choices can contribute to human development in line with environmental targets, whereas poor choices can lock-in unsustainable patterns for decades.

There are widespread gaps in government policies, institutions, research, and planning capacity needed to embed ecological and climate implications in options that account for externalities over the life of an infrastructure investment. The private sector could help drive the shift to more sustainable infrastructure but often lacks a clear understanding of environmental and social risks, which hinders investment, increases costs and ultimately reduces the sustainability of projects.

Early, strategic-scale planning based on sound science and social engagement can optimize infrastructure development, avoid costly post hoc changes and minimize environmental impacts. With better planning, **natural infrastructure** can take the place of traditional built solutions and provide ancillary benefits for climate, biodiversity and resilience. Innovations in science-based design options can enable nature's flows to be maintained as infrastructure needs are met. Better understanding of environmental risks can spur **public and private finance** to demand more sustainable solutions. Provisions for **compensation for any remaining environmental impacts** can fund offsetting conservation. Practical solutions and good models exist. It is time to pull them together and drive a shift in global norms toward building a sustainable infrastructure future.

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Draft Program

Time	Topic	Speaker
13:00	Buffet lunch	
	Opening Session	
13:30	High-Level Panel: Framing a New Vision for the Future of Infrastructure	
	Welcome	
	Launching the Rio Conventions Pavilion and Sustainable Infrastructure Day	Cristiana Paşca Palmer Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity
	What's at Stake	
	Getting Infrastructure Right Across the Rio Conventions	Nik Sekhran Chief Conservation Officer, WWF US
	Jaguars: Living in a fragmented landscape – maintaining critical corridors	Carlos Manuel Rodriguez (TBC) Minister of Environment, Costa Rica
	Iconic Species: A future with Tigers, Snow Leopards and Pandas <i>and</i> the infrastructure we need	Margaret Kinnaird Wildlife Practice Lead, WWF
	Panel Reflections on the Path Forward	
	Reflections and vision for the COP deliberations	Kacky Andrews Executive VP Global Strategies, TNC
		Marco Lambertini Director General, WWF
		Eva Mayerhofer, (TBC) Lead Environment and Biodiversity Specialist, European Investment Bank
	Q&A and Discussion	
14:50	Session 2. Paving the way: Getting a head start on good decisions through science-based 'upstream' planning and policies	
	Moderator	
	National level ecosystem services assessment and planning	Andriamitantoa Tolojanahary Director, Observatory Bureau of Land Use Planning and Tenure
	Marine spatial planning for development: Seychelles	Ambassador Ronny Jumeau (TBC) Seychelles
	MDB strategies for supporting early planning for sustainable infrastructure investments	Bruce Dunn Asian Development Bank
	Inspiring the right decisions: How great apes can drive ecologically sensitive planning – soft book launch	Helga Rainer Co-Executive Director and Head of Great Ape and Gibbon Program, Arcus Foundation
	Q&A and Discussion	

Time	Topic	Speaker
15:40	Coffee Break and Poster Session	
16:10	Session 3. Wild Highways: Securing natural infrastructure services and designing built infrastructure to maintain nature's flows and connectivity	
	Moderator	
	Insuring coral reefs for coastal resilience	Fernando Camacho Director General of Development, CONANP, Mexico
	Road Ecology – harmonizing linear infrastructure with nature's flows and connectivity	Rob Ament Large Landscapes Coalition
	Landscape approach to connectivity for Large Cats	Ashley Brooks WWF
	Designing infrastructure to maintain large mammal connectivity	Lazaros Georgiadis Infra-Eco Network Europe (IENE)
	Q&A and Discussion	
17:00	Session 4. Risks and incentives: Steering finance and industry toward sustainable infrastructure	
	Moderator	
	ESG in credit ratings and UN Principles on responsible investing.	Promod Dass Deputy CEO, Ram Rating Services Berhad, Malaysia
	SAVI: Sustainable Asset Valuation tool	Oshani Perera International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
	Cross-Sector Risk Management Approaches	Anna Gray Environment Manager/Cross-Sector Biodiversity Initiative, IPIECA
	Dow's approach to risk mitigation in coastal zone	The Nature Conservancy
	Q&A and Discussion	
17:50	Closing Session	
	Closing remarks	
18:00	Event Concludes	