



2020 Green Growth & Sustainable Development (GGSD) Forum

“Securing natural capital: Resilience, risk management and Covid-19”

Virtual conference, 24-26 November 2020

Draft agenda/concept note

Conference concept

The conference will be held virtually over three days. The sequencing of sessions proposed in this agenda may change.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the vulnerabilities of our socioeconomic systems globally and exposed the risks that natural capital degradation, including biodiversity loss, imposes on human health and our economies and societies. Yet natural capital – the biodiversity and ecosystem services upon which we depend - is rapidly deteriorating. Since 1970, one tenth of the world’s terrestrial biodiversity and one third of freshwater biodiversity has been lost. Deforestation continues and land degradation has reduced productivity of the global terrestrial area by 23 per cent. Coastal waters are deteriorating due to pollution and coastal eutrophication is expected to increase by 20 percent in large marine ecosystems by 2050 (OECD, 2019; IPBES, 2019).

These trends of natural capital erosion can profoundly affect the resilience of our societies, with biodiversity loss among the top global risks. The deterioration of natural capital threatens the productivity of several economic sectors, ranging from agriculture and fisheries to tourism and industry. At the same time, the drivers of biodiversity loss, such as deforestation, land-use change, over-exploitation of natural resources, wildlife trade and climate change are helping to create the conditions for pathogens to leap from animals to humans. Furthermore, the recent spread of new diseases from livestock and the homogeneity of farmed species underline the importance of increasing resilience and security of our food system. How is the COVID-19 pandemic re-shaping the policy debate on biodiversity and natural capital protection? What best practices are emerging from sectors and policy areas with direct links to biodiversity? How can the global food system deliver the “triple challenge” of ensuring food security for all, promote rural development and use natural resources sustainably—in short a decent livelihood for all? What approaches can address both biodiversity and climate objectives? How can we measure progress towards securing life under water and on land under the SDGs 14 and 15, and how to better mobilise finance for achieving these goals?



As the international community strives to agree on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at COP15 and prepare for COP 26 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the 2020 OECD Green Growth and Sustainable Development Forum will focus on “Securing natural capital: Resilience and risk management for green growth after Covid-19”. The Forum will address the risks posed by unmitigated biodiversity loss and natural capital depletion for the resilience and sustainability of our economies and societies, and discuss how the COVID-19 pandemic is reshaping the policy responses to cope with these issues.

The Forum sessions will focus on the best practices, opportunities and challenges for enhancing the environmental sustainability of the sectors and workers who directly depend on the natural capital on land and in oceans. The Forum will discuss how biodiversity and natural capital can help to increase the resilience of our societies to the impact of climate change. Additional sessions will focus on existing data gaps, since “you cannot manage what you cannot measure”, and on how to mobilise financing to achieve the SGD targets on biodiversity. These discussions will take place in the context of how to orchestrate a “green recovery” from this crisis.

The Forum’s Agenda is being developed in consultation with the Environment Policy Committee (EPOC)’s Working Party on Biodiversity, Water and Ecosystems (WPBWE), EPOC’s Joint Working Party on Agriculture and Environment (JWPAE), Committee on Agriculture; Committee on Fisheries (COFI), Investment Committee’s Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct (WPRBC), Working Party on Environmental Information (WPEI), Chemicals Committee, Committee on Tourism and the Development Assistance Committee’s Environment and Development Network (DAC/ENVIRONET). Also being consulted are the “Core Committees” of the OECD’s work on green growth: the Economic Policy Committee’s Working Party 1 (EPC/WP1), Committee on Science and Technology Policy (CSTP) which oversees the Oceans Economy Programme, Committee on Industry, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE), Environment Policy Committee (EPOC), Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy (CSSP) and the Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP)’s Expert Working Group on Natural Capital.



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Preliminary Agenda

DAY 1: Tuesday 24 November 2020

High Level Opening Session

14:00 – 14:55 CET

Welcome:

- **Angel GURRÍA**, Secretary-General, OECD

Moderator:

- **Masamichi KONO**, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD

Scene-setting presentation: The Economics of Biodiversity

- **Partha DASGUPTA**, Emeritus Professor, Frank Ramsey Professor Emeritus of Economics, Cambridge University, United Kingdom

Keynote addresses: Country perspectives

- **Barbara POMPILI**, Minister of Ecological and Solidarity Transition, France (Invited)
- **LIU Ning**, Deputy Director-General & Chief Negotiator for Convention on Biological Diversity, Ministry of Ecology and Environment, People’s Republic of China (Invited)

Keynote address: The state of knowledge

- **Louise O. FRESCO**, Professor, President of Wageningen University & Research Executive Board, Netherlands; Former strategic advisory board of the FAO



Session on “Securing natural capital on land”

15:00 – 16:00 CET (TBC)

A transformative change in land use is needed to end hunger (SDG 2), ensure clean water for all (SDG 6), mitigate greenhouse gas emissions (SDG 13), and protect life on land (SDG 15). Furthermore, the homogeneity of farmed crop and animal varieties increases the vulnerability of our food systems to shocks, such as new pathogens and invasive species imported through international trade. Human encroachment into natural habitats and the competition between different land uses are expected to increase due to world population growth, urbanisation and changing consumption and dietary patterns. This session will discuss the policies, business practices and political economy challenges to ensure a more sustainable use of natural capital on land. How can land use planning, payment for ecosystem services, sustainable agriculture, forestry and other policy measures help managing the synergies and trade-offs among competing land uses? The sudden outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic also created additional stresses on the global food system, requiring interventions by policymakers to guarantee the continued functioning of supply chains and to ensure access to food for vulnerable consumers. What are the distributional implications of such policies? The session will also explore the role of new technologies in addressing these long-standing challenges.

Moderator:

- **Alon ZASK**, Senior Deputy Director General for Natural Resources, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Israel; Co-chair of OECD Working Party on biodiversity, water and ecosystems (WPBWE)

Scene setter:

- **Sandra DÍAZ**, Professor of Community and Ecosystems Ecology at Córdoba National University; Senior Principal Researcher of the National Research Council of Argentina

Panellists:

OECD country policy maker on agriculture policy reforms & payment for ecosystem services

- **Julien HARDELIN**, Head, Office of Foresight and Strategy, French Ministry of Agriculture; Delegate of OECD Joint Working Party on Agriculture and Environment

Private sector rep on new technologies for better application and reduction of pesticides

- **Janet WILLIAMS**, Head of Regulatory Science (UK & Ireland), Bayer Crop Science

NGO Perspective and developing country perspective

- **Robin NAIDOO**, Senior Conservation Scientist and Lead Wildlife Scientist, World Wildlife Fund

The use of data to engage local stakeholders

- **Peter VAN BODEGOM**, Professor of Environmental biology, Leiden University



DAY 2: Wednesday 25 November 2020

Session on “Securing ocean-based natural capital”

14:00 – 15:00 CET (TBC)

The ocean economy spans multiple sectors – including fishing, aquaculture, tourism, transport and extractive sector – and is valued at USD 1.5 trillion. Yet marine and coastal ecosystems also provide invaluable – and in most cases ignored – services, such as climate regulation, pollution control, storm protection, shoreline stabilisation, and habitats for species – all of which are under severe pressure from economic activities. In addressing the economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, governments need to ensure not to encourage practises that could further undermine the sustainability of the ocean economy, such as overfishing, uncontrolled development of coastal zones, and pollution. This session will focus on best practices, opportunities and challenges for the greening of the ocean economy. The session will discuss the role of integrated approach to ocean management, such as Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) or Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), to ensure that multiple uses of the ocean are well aligned with the SDGs. How can marine protected areas ensure the sustainable use of marine resources? The debate will also discuss the distributional impact of necessary policy reforms, how these could be addressed and the role of new technologies for sustainable ocean use in the context of the upcoming UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).

Moderator

- Icelandic Delegate, OECD Tourism Committee (TBC)

Scene setter

- **Russell REICHEL**T, Australian Sherpa on the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy; Board member of the Climate Change Authority (Invited)

Panellists

OECD Policy maker on sustainable fisheries management

- **Don SYME**, Counsellor Primary Industries-Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand; Chair of the OECD Fisheries committee

Policy maker on Marine Spatial Planning

- **Céline FRANK**, Sectors, Aquaculture and Maritime Spatial Planning, DG Mare, European Commission Policy Analyst, Blue Economy

Role of capacity building in the UN Decade for ocean science

- **Ariel TROISI**, Chairperson at Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO



Session on “Financing for natural capital”

15:00 – 16:00 CET (TBC)

Financial flows need to be diverted from unsustainable to “biodiversity compatible” economic activities in order to achieve the SDG targets on biodiversity and increase the resilience of our societies. However, progress in integrating biodiversity in investment decisions, through practices such as impacts and dependencies assessment, risk management, due diligence and disclosure remains limited. This session will reflect on the data gaps in biodiversity finance reporting, and the barriers and opportunities to develop internationally harmonised approach for tracking biodiversity finance. The debate will also explore the role of public and private initiatives to improve disclosure of biodiversity risk, and the challenges and opportunities that biodiversity loss creates for the insurance sector. The role of multilateral development cooperation institutions in mobilising private investments will also be discussed.

Moderator:

- **Nozipho TSHABALALA**, Conversation Strategist and Global Moderator

Scene setter:

- **Katia KAROUSAKIS**, Biodiversity Team Leader, Biodiversity and Water Division, Environment Directorate, OECD

Panellists:

International financial institution perspective on integration of green growth and natural capital in sovereign risk assessments

- **Kevin URAMA**, Senior Director, African Development Institute (ADI)

The EU taxonomy on sustainable finance

- **Manuel COESLIER**, Portfolio manager & Socially Responsible Investing analyst at Mirova; member of the EU Technical Expert Group on Sustainable Finance (Invited)

Financial institution rep on the risks connected to natural capital and biodiversity loss

- **Marine DE BAZELAIRE**, Head of Sustainability, Continental Europe, HSBC

Business needs for finance for biodiversity

- **Eva ZABEY**, Executive Director, Business for Nature; Member of the Global Future Council on the New Economic Agenda (TBC)



DAY 3: Thursday 26 November 2020

Session on “Measuring natural capital and biodiversity”

14:00 – 15:00 CET (TBC)

This session will focus on the recent progresses, outstanding challenges and prospects for the natural capital and biodiversity measurement agenda in light of the targets to be agreed at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP15 to take place in 2021. A key challenge for measuring natural capital is that a suite of indicators on the condition and extent of ecosystems is required (e.g. forest loss, number of threatened species), as opposed to climate change where the metrics are more easily measured. The recent development in the accounting for ecosystems, or natural capital, as part of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) and the opportunities for and outstanding barriers to its widespread adoption will also be discussed. The session will also explore how environmental earth observation and big data could help to better measure changes in natural capital. Furthermore, the session will also discuss recent development in combining environmental data with socio-demographic data in the context of the strong emphasis of the UN Agenda 2030 on inclusiveness.

Moderator:

- **Viveka PALM**, Deputy Head, Regions and Environment at Statistics Sweden; Chair of the OECD Working Party on Environmental Information (WPEI)

Scene setter:

- **Paul EKINS**, Professor of Resources and Environment Policy, UCL's Institute for Sustainable Resources, United Kingdom; Co-Chair, GGKP Expert Working Group on Natural Capital
- **Carl OBST**, Director at Institute for the Development of Environmental-Economic Accounting (IDEAA), Melbourne, Australia

Panellists:

Measuring natural capital for national policymaking – UK experience

- **Joe GRICE**, Chairman, UK Office for National Statistics Economic Experts;

Measuring natural capital for national policymaking – Developing country

- **Glenn-Marie LANGE**, Senior Environmental Economist at World Bank



Session on “Addressing climate and biodiversity challenges: Nature-based solutions for risk management”

15:00 – 16:00 CET (TBC)

The international community is increasingly recognising the potential of nature-based solutions to increase society’s resilience to the impacts of climate change, while maximising synergies between ecosystem stewardship and human wellbeing. For example, by investing in the restoration of forests in upper catchment areas not only protects communities downstream from the risk of flooding; it can simultaneously increase carbon sequestration, while protecting species habitat. However, despite their recognised role and potential, the application of nature-based solutions continues to be limited in number and scale. Nature-based solutions can help to improve the resilience of our societies to the impact of climate change, such as more intense rainfall, wildfires or heat waves, while simultaneously protecting biodiversity as well as mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. This session will discuss technical, institutional, and financial barriers to the adoption of nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation, such as a perception of being “emerging technologies” and the benefits from their larger adoption. Also discussed will be how to increase the coherence between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation policies, especially in relation to infrastructure planning.

Moderator:

- (TBD)

Scene setter:

Focus on links between climate change and natural capital/biodiversity loss and role of nature-based solutions

- **Nathalie SEDDON**, Professor of Biodiversity, University of Oxford, and Director of the Oxford Nature based solutions initiative (Invited)

Panellists:

OECD country policymaker perspective

- **Basile VAN HAVRE**, Co-Chair for the Convention on Biological Diversity’s (CBD) Post-2020 Open Ended Working Group, Canada

The role of nature-based solutions in developing countries

- **Silvia Cristina RODRÍGUEZ VALLADARES**, Director of Climate Change Adaptation and Desertification, Ministry for Environment, Peru (Invited)

OECD country policymaker/expert on Nature based solutions to mitigate wildfire risk/water-related risks (TBD)

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Closing Remarks:

- **Masamichi KONO**, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD



Preliminary list of relevant OECD work

- [Alternative Payment Approaches for Biodiversity Conservation in Agriculture](#)
- [Analysing Data on Protected Areas](#)
- [Economic and environmental sustainability performance of environmental policies in agriculture](#)
- [Encouraging policy change for sustainable and resilient fisheries,](#)
- [Environmental Performance Reviews:](#) country and topic specific work on adaptation and risk mitigation (e.g. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in Latin America)
- Financing for biodiversity/nature (e.g. [Biodiversity: Finance and the Economic and Business Case for Action](#); [A Comprehensive Overview of Global Biodiversity Finance](#); [Tracking Economic Instruments and Finance for Biodiversity 2020.](#))
- [Horizontal work on ocean economy](#)
- [Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Sustainable Development](#)
- [Managing the biodiversity impacts of fertiliser and pesticide use: Overview and insights from trends and policies across selected OECD countries](#)
- [Managing Weather-Related Disasters in Southeast Asian Agriculture](#)
- [Relative Effects of Fisheries Support Policies](#)
- [Responding to Rising Seas: OECD Country Approaches to Tackling Coastal Risks](#)
- [Sustainable Ocean for all](#)
- [Towards Sustainable Land Use: Aligning Biodiversity, Climate and Food Policies,](#)
- Fisheries, aquaculture and COVID-19: Issues and policy responses (forthcoming OECD report).