



Unlocking Private Finance for Scalable, Credible and High-Integrity Nature-based Solutions

Venue: IUCN World Conservation Congress, Abu Dhabi, 2025

Duration: 50 minutes

Venue: IUCN Business Pavillion

Date: Monday October 13th, 2025

Time: 13.00-14.00

Moderator: BORAL ROLLAND Debasmita, Head, Regional Multilateral Finance, IUCN

Context and Rationale

Achieving global ambitions under the Paris Agreement, the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets requires transformative shifts in financing nature. Despite growing recognition of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) as a pathway for climate mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity conservation, private finance accounts for less than 17% of all NbS investments.

Unlocking private finance for NbS requires credible frameworks, clear risk-reward mechanisms, and measurable impact metrics that ensure investments deliver nature-positive outcomes while safeguarding capital. The IUCN Global Standard for NbS provides a globally recognised benchmark for designing, implementing, and monitoring high-integrity NbS that align with Rio Conventions' goals.

This session brings together global leaders from finance, academia, and development to explore how to scale credible NbS investments that drive real impact for people, nature, and the economy.

Objective

To explore opportunities and tools for mobilising private finance towards scalable, credible, and high-integrity NbS, ensuring that investments deliver measurable outcomes aligned with the Rio Conventions and safeguard investor confidence.

Expected Outcomes

- Insights into risk mitigation and return frameworks for private NbS investments.
- Identification of tools and standards that ensure integrity and impact of NbS portfolios.
- Strengthened collaboration among financial institutions, development banks, and research bodies to accelerate credible nature finance.

Programme Overview

Opening Remarks:

- **Angela ANDRADE**, Chair, IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management
- **Marie BJORNSON-LANGEN**, Deputy Executive Director for Sustainable Development Solutions, AFD

Keynote Address:

- **Prof. Dr. Thomas ANDERSSON**, President IKED, Former Director of Science, Technology and Industry, OECD Secretariat (Paris); President, Jönköping University, Sweden

Panel Discussion:

Panellists:

- **Eric SCHOUMSKY**, Head of Natural Capital Solutions, Société Générale
- **Nan XIANG**, Director, International Development Department, China Sustainability Tribune
- **Chris DICKINSON**, Climate Change Specialist, Asian Development Bank

Proposed Panel Questions

Eric Schoumksy:

- From a financial institution's viewpoint, what are the main challenges and opportunities in embedding NbS in investment portfolios? How can perceived risks be mitigated?
- How can the IUCN Global Standard for NbS strengthen investor confidence and accountability in NbS projects?

Nan Xiang:

- How can sustainability leadership and knowledge platforms in China inspire private sector commitment to credible and high-integrity NbS?

Chris Dickinson:

- How is the Asian Development Bank fostering blended finance models to attract private investment in NbS across Asia? And What roles do multilateral development banks play in de-risking and scaling NbS investments in alignment with Rio Conventions?

Closing Reflection: What collective actions and partnerships are needed to unlock transformative private finance for NbS globally?