



Edinburgh
PROCESS

**IDDDRI & Edinburgh Process
Themed Webinar Session**

**Interlinkages Between Climate Change and Biodiversity: Maximizing Synergies
and Minimizing Tradeoffs**

Tuesday May 19th, 16:00-17:30 CET
By invitation only, request inscription [here](#)

This Themed Webinar Session is organized in the context of the [Online Consultation Process on the Role of Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities in the Development of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#), hosted virtually in April-June 2020 by the Scottish Government in coordination with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other partners.

1. Framing of the webinar

This webinar highlights the role of subnational governments in addressing climate and biodiversity together, framing it within a broader international and scientific context. It inscribes the obvious synergies (e.g. Nature Based Solutions) within a larger picture, which includes the need for highly ambitious climate action today to help ensure against massive biodiversity loss in future decades. It showcases success stories and best practices from subnational implementation of NBS and provides insights from emerging ideas of international convergence. The webinar is organized in three parts:

1. **Linking climate and biodiversity: global science-based perspectives** – Andy Purvis, IPBES, and Alexandra Deprez, IDDDRI
2. **Implementing NBS for climate and biodiversity: lessons learned and role of subnational governments** – Emma Goodyer and Roxane Andersen, Scotland, UK, and Miriam Garcia, Sao Paulo, Brazil
3. **Towards a global convergence of the climate-biodiversity agendas: views from national governments** – Andrea Meza and Rita Zaghoul, Costa Rica, and Clémentine Renevier, France

2. Agenda, with proposed foci for each speaker

Welcome remarks by Scottish Government and brief introduction by moderator Juliette Landry, IDDDRI Research Fellow, International Biodiversity Governance	
1. Linking climate and biodiversity: global science-based perspectives	
Andy Purvis	IPBES <i>Coordinating Lead Author of the IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services</i>
- Climate-biodiversity link: a biodiversity perspective. The importance of tackling both crises together, including in the context of COVID-19 and other zoonotic diseases.	
Alexandra Deprez	IDDDRI <i>Research Fellow, International Climate Governance, lead author of IDDDRI Study on climate and biodiversity joint ambition¹</i>

¹ Deprez, A., Vallejo, L., Rankovic, A. (2019). Towards a climate change ambition that (better) integrates biodiversity and land use. IDDDRI, *Study* N 08/19.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate-biodiversity link: a climate perspective. Namely, the need for ambitious climate action (i.e. deep economy-wide emissions reductions) today as essential to ensure against massive biodiversity loss in future decades. 	
2. Implementing NBS for climate and biodiversity: lessons learned and role of subnational governments	
Scotland, United Kingdom	
Emma Goodyer and Roxane Andersen	Programme Manager at IUCN UK Peatland Programme , and Senior Research Fellow, Environmental Research Institute , University of the Highlands and Islands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Share example(s) of successful Scottish NBS implementation (e.g. peatland restoration), with focus on best practices and challenges faced. - Provide reflections on role of subnational governments in implementation - Provide insights on how Scotland has been thinking of the potential tradeoffs between climate and biodiversity (if there has been an explicit focus on this to date). 	
Sao Paulo State, Brazil	
Miriam Garcia	Brazilian NGO SPVS (Society for Wildlife Research and Environmental Education) , in charge of implementing the Atlantic Forest Great Reserve.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Briefly describe implementation of the Atlantic Forest Great Reserve - Provide civil society organization's perspective on the importance and role of subnational governments in promoting NBS implementation. 	
3. Towards a global convergence of the climate-biodiversity agendas: views from national governments	
Costa Rica	
Andrea Meza & Rita Zaghoul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead climate negotiator and Director of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment and Energy • High Ambition Coalition Coordinator, Ministry of Environment and Energy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Convergence of the climate and biodiversity agendas moving forward, especially in light of and in response to the COVID-19 health crisis. - Update from the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, and the Planetary Emergency Partnership, with the March 26th Financial Times Op-Ed and Club of Rome open letter to leaders calling for an ambitious global climate-biodiversity joint agenda. - Comments on importance of local and regional governments in this transition 	
France	
Clémentine Renevier	Biodiversity Bureau Chief, Ministry of Ecological and Inclusive Transition.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brief update of IUCN Summit timeline - Political onvergence of the climate and biodiversity agendas moving forward, especially in light of and in response to the COVID-19 health crisis - Comments on importance of local and regional governments in implementing the climate-biodiversity convergence, and integration between scales (subnational, national, international). 	
Q&A with participants	

3. Context for the discussion

Recent IPBES and IPCC reports demonstrate that climate change and biodiversity loss crises are deeply intertwined, and must therefore be addressed in an ambitious and coordinated manner. The current COVID-19 pandemic further reinforces the need for joint climate-biodiversity ambition, for two reasons: (1) the pandemic reveals our societies' deep vulnerability to existential threats, thereby pointing to the importance of creating more resilient societies to the interconnected existential threats that face us, including climate change and biodiversity loss, and (2) COVID-19

The international political momentum which started emerging in 2019 on a climate-biodiversity convergence² was set to accelerate during 2020 namely around COP15 and COP26. While countries' full attention is—rightly so—currently focused on controlling the COVID-19 crisis, it **will be important to keep the call for high joint**

² E.g. Beijing Declaration on Climate and Biodiversity, NBS stream at 2019 UNSG Climate Summit, COP25 as 'Blue COP'.

climate-biodiversity ambition alive throughout the coming year, in particular through designing economic recovery plans that help accelerate the transition to resilient low-carbon and biodiversity-rich societies, and in the run-up to COP15 and COP26 in 2021.³ To successfully build this convergence, actors at all governance scales must work to maximize synergies between climate and biodiversity and minimize trade-offs, with **subnational, regional, and local governments having a key role in successful implementation.**

Mainstreaming Nature-Based Solutions (NBS),⁴ is an important climate-biodiversity synergy: it supports biodiversity preservation, climate adaptation, and could provide up to one-third of cost-effective climate mitigation needed to reach the 2°C goal.⁵ Despite major recent setbacks in nature conservation (e.g. deforestation and forest fires in the Amazon, wildfires in Australia), **promising stories of successful NBS implementation benefiting biodiversity and climate are also emerging around the world, including in Scotland** (e.g. peatland restoration). Sharing best practices and challenges can promote valuable policy-learning among subnational governments. It is nevertheless important for all actors to be aware that NBS may be invoked as a distraction by actors who want to obstruct the rapid and ambitious emissions reductions we need (i.e. fossil fuel companies using NBS, Trump’s support for the 1 Trillion Trees initiative).

The climate-biodiversity link goes however well beyond mainstreaming NBS. A perhaps even more important climate-biodiversity synergy is **implementing economy-wide ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reductions, as rapidly and as urgently as possible** (through fossil fuel phase-out, energy demand reduction, sustainable consumption and sustainable land-use). Indeed, **the more we act on climate today, the better we ensure against biodiversity loss in coming decades.** Lack of ambition climate action today: (1) will result in growing climate change that will erode NBS’ climate mitigation benefits (carbon stocking capacity), (2) significantly increases the likelihood that to reach the 1.5°C or 2°C goal we would need to recur by 2050 to widespread ‘carbon-dioxide removal’ techniques such as BECCS (bioenergy with carbon capture and storage), whose extensive land-footprint are set to have very negative impacts on biodiversity conservation and food security.⁶

Therefore, it is essential that Parties set in their economic recovery plans and at both COP15 and COP26 the bases to for an intelligent and pragmatic international coordination across climate and biodiversity, and that the policies they propose in their national commitments (updated climate NDCs in 2020, and updated biodiversity NBSAPS in 2021) maximize climate-biodiversity synergies and minimize trade-offs. **The implication of sub-national actors in implementing ambitious action on biodiversity and climate will be key to its success.**

³ See the **Call to Action from the Planetary Emergency Partnership*: Emerging from the Planetary Emergency and partnering between People and Nature**, <https://clubofrome.org/impact-hubs/climate-emergency/open-letter-to-global-leaders-a-healthy-planet-for-healthy-people/>

⁴ The IUCN defines NBS as “actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges (e.g. climate change, food and water security or natural disasters) effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.”

⁵ Griscom, B. et al. (2017). Natural climate solutions. *PNAS*

⁶ E.g. up to an area the size of India in some IPCC 1.5C scenarios. See IPCC Land Report and IPBES Assessment Report