



Infrastructure and Nature

at the IUCN World Conservation Congress

3-11 September 2021

Infrastructureandnature.org

24 public and private sector organizations joined together in early 2020 to form the Infrastructure and Nature Coalition in preparation for the 2021 IUCN World Conservation Congress(WCC). In late 2020, we hosted a [webinar series](#) that addressed biodiversity, natural capital, ecosystem services, and climate change at all stages of the infrastructure lifecycle. Common themes for action emerged highlighting data and standards, technical capacity, decision-maker awareness, participation and collaboration, and policy and regulatory incentives.

The time has come and we invite you to the IUCN WCC virtually or in person to dig deeper into these themes and explore how we can best support and accelerate the way forward for infrastructure.

The events below will take place in 2 venues, the Exhibition Hall and the Congress Forum.

The Exhibition Hall Post-2020 Pavilion events are free to the public and can be live-streamed by registering [here](#).

The Forum events requires IUCN WCC registration which can be found on their [website](#).

Click on each event for more information.

4 SEPTEMBER
16:00 - 17:30 CEST

Corridors and Crossings: Mainstreaming Ecological Connectivity into Existing and Planned Infrastructure

Location: Forum Room H8 - 7 Cévennes/live-streamed

Over the last 30 years, many actors around the world have learned how to avoid or minimize the impacts to ecological connectivity caused by infrastructure – including roads, railways, canals, fences, and energy networks. This session will bring together representatives of government, NGOs, the private sector, and research centres to discuss the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity conservation requirements into infrastructure development that maintain, enhance, and restore ecological connectivity. Participants will learn about existing and innovative practices, hear about experiences and developments around the world, and be inspired to apply the increasing body of global best-practices through their collaborative networks, projects, research initiatives, and legal, policy, and regulatory frameworks.

5 SEPTEMBER
14:00 - 15:00 CEST

Nature-Positive Infrastructure—the Wave of the Future

Location: Forum Room H8 - 10 Alpilles/live-streamed

This is the moment. The international community must come together now to grasp the unique opportunity that lies ahead in the next 12 months to catalyze a new wave of nature-positive infrastructure norms and practices. The confluence of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, G20 Quality Infrastructure Investment Principles, and UNFCCC's nature-based solutions sets the stage for a real sea change. This interactive event will bring together leading representatives of public and private sector institutions working on the future of nature-positive infrastructure to explore the most strategic and efficient options and opportunities for advancing a global path forward.

6 SEPTEMBER
11:00 - 12:30 CEST

Addressing Biodiversity Risks in Infrastructure Investments

Location: Exhibition Hall H3 Post-2020 Pavilion/live-streamed

Neglecting to fully consider biodiversity risks in lending and investment decisions for infrastructure exposes financial institutions to material financial risks. While more investors are integrating energy efficiency, GHG emissions, air pollution, and physical climate risks into their portfolios, the disclosure and integration of biodiversity is less prevalent. This session will explore the barriers to identifying, measuring, and managing biodiversity-related financial risks in the infrastructure sector and debate what needs to happen to level the playing field for investors who are serious about sustainable infrastructure.

6 SEPTEMBER
14:00 - 15:30 CEST

Blowing Up the Barriers: Delivering Sustainable Infrastructure in a Rapidly Changing World

Location: Forum Room H8 - 6 Cap Corse/live-streamed

Investments in infrastructure development will skyrocket over the coming decades. And yet we know the world is not doing nearly enough to ensure they are sustainable, due to challenges in four key areas: data and standards; awareness, technical capacity and know-how; collaboration and participatory approaches; and policy and regulatory incentives. Join us to learn from examples where governments, NGOs, donors, and the private sector are overcoming these barriers to ensure that infrastructure benefits both nature and people and contributes to global agreements and their national goals, from Paris to the SDGs and the CBD.

7 SEPTEMBER
11:00 - 12:30 CEST

BISON - A Strategic European Project to Mainstream Infrastructure and Biodiversity

Location: Exhibition Hall H3 Post-2020 Pavilion/live-streamed

BISON is the first EU-funded H2020 coordination and support action project to focus on transport infrastructure and its interactions with biodiversity. Launched in January 2021 for a period of 30 months, BISON aims to set the future European strategic research and deployment agenda on transport infrastructure and biodiversity. BISON will provide European states and stakeholder tools and recommendations to integrate biodiversity into the design, construction, and operation of infrastructure. BISON brings together more than 16 countries and 39 partners across Europe. BISON will thus enable Europe to be a leading continent in this field.

8 SEPTEMBER
18:00 - 19:00 CEST

Transport4nature Launch: Acting in Favor of Biodiversity: CEO Commitments for a New Era in Transport and Energy Infrastructure

Location: Exhibition Hall H3 Post-2020 Pavilion/live-streamed

Transport4Nature invites European transport and energy infrastructure companies to make commitments to biodiversity. Launched by IENE and its partners, this alliance of networks of companies, scientists and environmental associations, has one ambition: to create a collective European sustainable dynamic to protect, enhance and restore biodiversity, through the involvement of transport and energy infrastructure CEOs. On the occasion of the launch of Transport4nature, major European transport and energy infrastructure companies, such as Eiffage in France and REN in Portugal, will testify, through the voice of their CEOs, to their commitment to biodiversity and will encourage European companies to join the sustainable infrastructure dynamic.

8 SEPTEMBER
19:00 - 20:30 CEST

Equity, Ecosystems and Scarcity—the Global Sand Crisis and Infrastructure

Location: Exhibition Hall H3 Post-2020 Pavilion/live-streamed

Sand is the world's most consumed raw material after water and an essential ingredient to our everyday lives. It is central for the construction of roads, bridges, and buildings and is fundamental in the manufacturing of glass and silicon computer chips. Yet the world is facing a growing sand shortage without readily available alternative materials. Construction booms have led to dramatic increases in demand for sand, leading to rising tensions in communities and degraded ecosystems. As the global demand for this resource continues to rise faster than natural sources can sustain, it is crucial to manage it sustainably.

9 SEPTEMBER
11:00 - 12:00 CEST

Transport4Nature: Integrating Biodiversity into Transport Infrastructure Corporate Development Strategies and Operations

Location: Exhibition Hall H3 Post-2020 Pavilion/live-streamed

This workshop will provide an insight into the mechanics of the Transport4Nature initiative. It will explain how it works, how companies can propose commitments, how these commitments are reviewed by experts, evaluated according to specific criteria (SMART) and then communicated. Companies such as Eiffage or RTE will talk about the Act4Nature experience (from which Transport4Nature was inspired) and how their actions are monitored.

