

SPRING 2024

SALAZAR CENTER
FOR NORTH AMERICAN CONSERVATION



**REALIZING
A NATURE-POSITIVE FUTURE
IN NORTH AMERICA:**

A synthesis report from the Salazar Center's
2023 International Symposium on Conservation Impact

"No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it." – H.E. Luccock

The Salazar Center staff dedicate this report to our many friends and partners who have shaped the Symposia over the last five years into the powerful confluence of people and ideas that it is today. We'd especially like to acknowledge our founders, U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Ken Salazar and Colorado State University Chancellor Tony Frank, whose vision for the Center sparked the creation of the Symposia and has guided us ever since.

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Introduction





Leslie Harroun, Executive Director

I CAN'T IMAGINE A BETTER WAY TO START A NEW JOB.

Eight days into my role as Executive Director of the Salazar Center for North American Conservation, we held our fifth annual International Symposium on Conservation Impact. I found myself enveloped within a vibrant and committed community of people who care about nature, other people, and the future of our societies and planet. For me, the promise of this gathering crystallized around two things. First, and on full display, was our shared commitment to struggle and experiment together to save our natural systems, often across human divides, but always with open hearts and open minds. Second, our community's growing influence across all sectors of society was both striking and energizing. I came away inspired by the ideas, stories, perspectives, and provocations of our wide-ranging group. Like everyone, I'm pulled forward by the potential to make a difference. Being part of the Symposium reminded me of why I have always been drawn to the business of protecting and celebrating nature, and confirmed for me that I am in the right place.

Connecting people, ideas, and landscapes to create equitable and lasting solutions to the threat of environmental breakdown, whether on a local or a continental scale, has been the purpose of the Salazar Center from its beginning. Our aim is to create an impartial yet aspirational platform to advance conservation across North America by building bridges that connect science, culture, community practice, and policy development. We do this by convening innovative conservation agents and leaders, disseminating new ideas and research, offering an inside look at the groups getting it right, and providing valuable training and mentoring for those of you on the ground doing the hard work.

Going forward, our purpose and many of our activities will remain the same. But this doesn't mean our organization will remain static. The Salazar Center is young and will continue to evolve and grow, as it always has. As its new Executive Director, I will collaborate with and learn from our exceptional team and advisory board who infuse our work with creativity, determination, and passion. I also hope to collaborate with, learn from, and work towards transformation with all of you—the Salazar Center's partners, supporters, allies, and detractors alike. We want all of you on this journey with us; we know we can't achieve our goals without you, nor even conceive of the many changes that lie ahead.

Like the Symposium itself, this synthesis report represents a labor of love for Salazar Center staff. It summarizes and provides a video link to each session and then goes the extra mile to distill the Symposium's presentations and discussions into five themes. Like a prism that breaks up light into its spectral colors, these themes capture and distinguish today's current mindsets and motivations, relationships and power, and the policies, processes, rules, and resource flows that shape and inform our strategies. The report reflects our shared temporal awareness of the complexity of our challenges and offers rich guidance to point us in the direction of an ecologically and socially intact future. Equally important, it underscores the tremendous ingenuity, determination, and love that we all bring to this work.



As you read the report, I hope you are encouraged to review and reflect on the sessions that piqued your curiosity, to follow up with colleagues who inspired you, and to act on new ideas that motivated you. Any gathering like the Symposium provides a liminal space that allows us to momentarily shed the duties of our normal lives and open ourselves to possibility through new ways of thinking, acting, and relating. Returning to a mountain of emails and everyday life can make acting upon these possibilities difficult. We hope the Synthesis Report will provide you with the spark of a second chance to embrace them!

Leslie A. Harroun

Executive Director, Salazar Center for North American Conservation

About this report

At the Salazar Center for North American Conservation, we recognize that “bringing diverse people together in an environment that encourages and facilitates idea exchange is a powerful and necessary strategy for driving change.”(1) Every year, we seek to cut across silos and foster a deeper intersectional understanding of complex topics affecting our North American communities and ecosystems. This living-systems approach helps people, organizations, and sectors coordinate and collaborate to make progress, even in unpredictable conditions. The Conservation Finance Network describes the value of this type of engagement well:

The benefits of convening and growing a community of practice... are difficult to measure but tangible and broad, nonetheless. Such efforts represent critical soft infrastructure that enables new approaches, partnerships, and projects. This backbone support is critical to systems-level change—it enables practitioners to strengthen connections and align efforts beyond the bounds of individual mission statements or business models.(2)

The Salazar Center’s fifth Symposium was no exception. We focused on how to achieve a nature-positive future together, to catapult our communities towards durable, high-impact outcomes for climate, biodiversity, and human well-being.

Globally, biodiversity is declining rapidly—faster than at any other time in human history. North America is no exception: over 20% of its biodiversity has declined since 1970.(3) According to some estimates, 41% of U.S. ecosystems are at risk of collapse.(4) At the same time, climate change continues to put people, communities, and nature under severe stress.

Biodiversity loss and climate change imperil ecosystems, human well-being, and economic health. Approximately \$44 trillion of global economic value generation—over half the world’s GDP—is moderately or highly dependent on nature.(5) Marginalized communities suffer the greatest harm from these economic and environmental impacts.



Featured Blog Post

Nature-Based Terminology:
Understanding the lingo that will get us
to natural solutions

Experts and leaders worldwide acknowledge that climate change and biodiversity loss are inseparable crises. We must address them urgently and holistically for the benefit of both the planet and people.

5 Years of Symposia:

165
speakers
- of whom -

43%
identify as Black,
Indigenous, or other
persons of color

1500+
attendees
- representing -

48
states, plus
Canada and Mexico

The Salazar Center’s 2023 Symposium brought together diverse thought leaders to share ideas and best practices for moving beyond individual pilot projects to build lasting systems change for nature and communities across North America. Our two-day dialogue elevated the interconnectedness of biodiversity loss and climate change, both in terms of their impacts and solutions, while highlighting how a nature-based approach can enhance the resilience of both our planet and society. By design, we assembled speakers with varied expertise and backgrounds to showcase the breadth of differing, and sometimes contrarian, opinions and ideas related to our theme. Our intent with this approach was to facilitate our attendees’ ability to deepen their understanding of the issues and perhaps challenge their perspectives.

This report summarizes **five cross-cutting themes** that emerged from the Symposium, as well as key takeaways from each session. The themes reflect ideas, needs, and opportunities raised multiple times by speakers or attendees. Like the interconnectedness of biodiversity and climate, each theme is also connected to the next. Together, they help illuminate potential shared pathways to enrich biodiversity and build long-term, stable societies and healthy economies across North America.

Systems Change: “Nature-positive, carbon-negative, justice-forward.”

Foster Relationships: “Progress moves at the speed of trust.”

Learn, Monitor, Adapt: “Are we getting it right?”

Empower: “A dream without resources is nothing more than a hallucination.”

Urgency & Scale: “We can win on this.”

We hope this report encourages you to continue conversations started at the Symposium, while inspiring everyone in our growing network to continue advancing innovative and coordinated conservation programming, practices, and policies.

Cross-cutting Themes



Systems Change

“Nature-positive, carbon-negative, justice-forward.”
- Sacha Spector

As a community of practice, our end goal should be a “nature-positive, carbon-negative, justice-forward” society. To achieve this, we need to break out of our silos and broaden our project-scale thinking to reimagine and redesign the underlying relationships between nature, climate, and community. We must address the root causes of biodiversity loss and climate change rather than merely reacting to them.

Throughout the Symposium, speakers articulated the need for ‘multi-solving.’ In other words, we must recognize the interconnected drivers behind biodiversity loss and climate change and seek to implement policies and projects with the potential to address multiple threats across the climate-nature-equity space when possible. There is sufficient evidence that nature can mitigate and sometimes reverse climate impacts while providing social, economic, and ecological co-benefits. Nature underpins our economy (5) and well-being in North America. For example, data shows that nature-based solutions (NBS) can cost-effectively provide 37% of the CO2 mitigation we need by 2030 to give us a meaningful chance of holding warming to below two degrees Celsius.(6) Similarly, nature-based solutions are critical to reversing biodiversity decline.(7) By focusing on implementing solutions that address multiple challenges, we drive the changes necessary to foster durable, positive systems change.

Wicked problems require interdisciplinary solutions

Tied to the theme of ‘multi-solving,’ Symposium participants unequivocally called for ‘mainstreaming’ biodiversity and NBS in all planning, implementation, and policy processes. While we’ve seen unprecedented progress within our



Featured Video



Sacha Spector & Leslie Harroun:
Reflecting on cooperative opportunities across North America

conservation community and natural resource agencies to implement nature-based solutions, mainstreaming the protection and regeneration of biodiversity will require incorporating nature-based solutions into the planning, management, and policies of all sectors and agencies. As noted by many speakers, success will come only when climate change and nature are embraced within a whole-of-government approach to solving this twin crisis.



“ *We need to focus on systemic changes related to agriculture and the financial sector. Once we can provide these two sectors with a clear understanding of what biodiversity and nature-positive impact investments are, it will be a huge milestone in biodiversity conservation. Because right now, there's not a common language between these two sectors to understand each other.*

- Alonso Martínez Caballero

This idea was similarly elevated for non-government sectors. To create transformative change, we need to enable lasting solutions to our climate and biodiversity crises. All sectors need to treat climate and biodiversity as foundational to their operations and supply chains. We must break down the various silos limiting our ability to evolve and enable lasting solutions. This requires reaching beyond the traditional conservation community and thinking deeply about other segments of society, including the business, banking, and finance sectors, agriculture, energy, and rural and urban communities.

A related theme resonated across our two-day dialogue as vital to systems change: the importance of keeping people and communities at the center of the work. Speakers acknowledged that progress has been made to weave equity into federal policy, conservation practice, and corporate efforts while recognizing that we have not yet fully institutionalized equity and community co-benefits into our government, conservation, and corporate systems. To succeed in the long run, Indigenous and frontline communities must have the agency to co-create solutions and ensure that benefits are equitably shared. They must become integral to the development of practices, policies, and institutions to advance positive climate and biodiversity outcomes. No longer can solutions come at the expense of the livelihoods and well-being of marginalized communities. To achieve this, we need to consider how we break down and re-assemble the systems that kept so many communities out of the conversation in the first place.

Foster Relationships

“Progress moves at the speed of trust.”

- James Rattling Leaf

The value of rooting our climate and biodiversity work in relationship-building reverberated powerfully throughout the Symposium. Despite the urgency of the climate and biodiversity crises, speakers encouraged the conservation community to slow down and intentionally build meaningful relationships with partners and leaders from across sectors and organizations, and particularly with the frontline and Indigenous communities who are central to this work. Creating an effective and truly inclusive NBS community necessitates a deeper understanding of and ability to communicate with all those touched by the biodiversity and climate crises to develop shared values and a common language. For North America to reach a nature-positive future, we must lead with community and create solutions built on a foundation of trust.

The knowledge and understanding of frontline communities and Indigenous peoples are foundational to building successful strategies for addressing climate and biodiversity risks and implementing effective nature-based solutions. Community-driven data is as important as the data derived from conventional Western science, and achieving a nature-positive future will be difficult without fully incorporating these diverse sources of expertise.



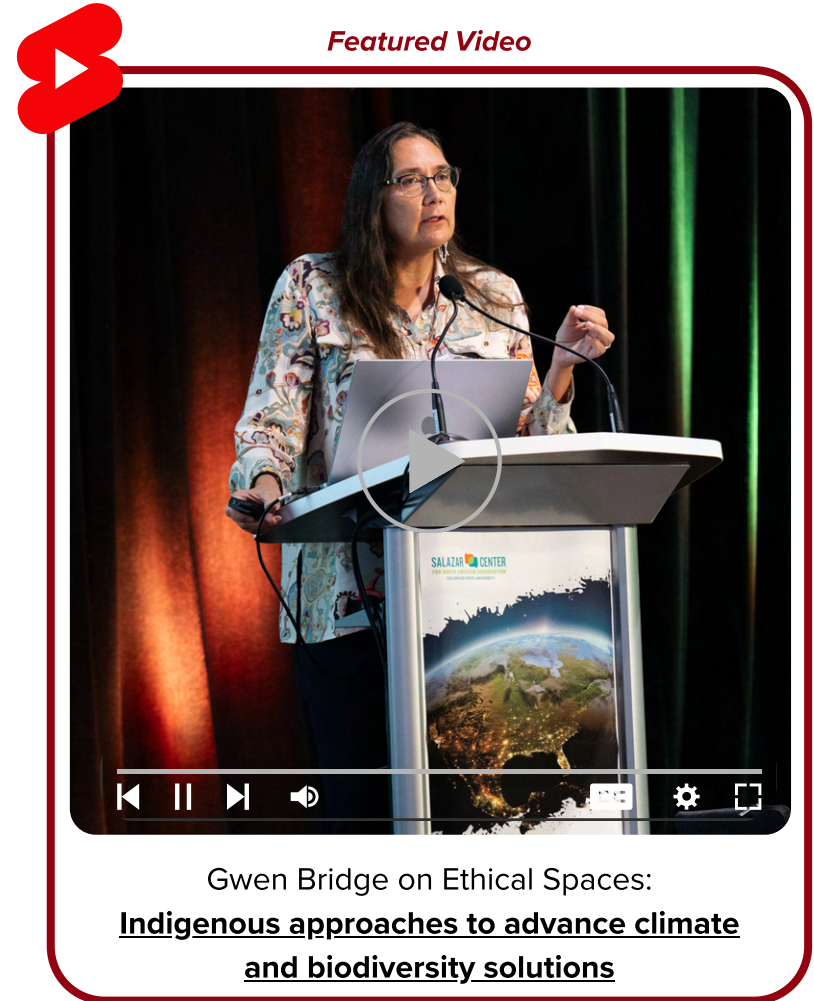
“ Science is important but it’s not how you lead this work. You lead with community. Some of the work we’ve been doing is not just talking about how we solve these problems, but breaking down the systems that have kept these communities out of the conversations.

- Teresa Martinez

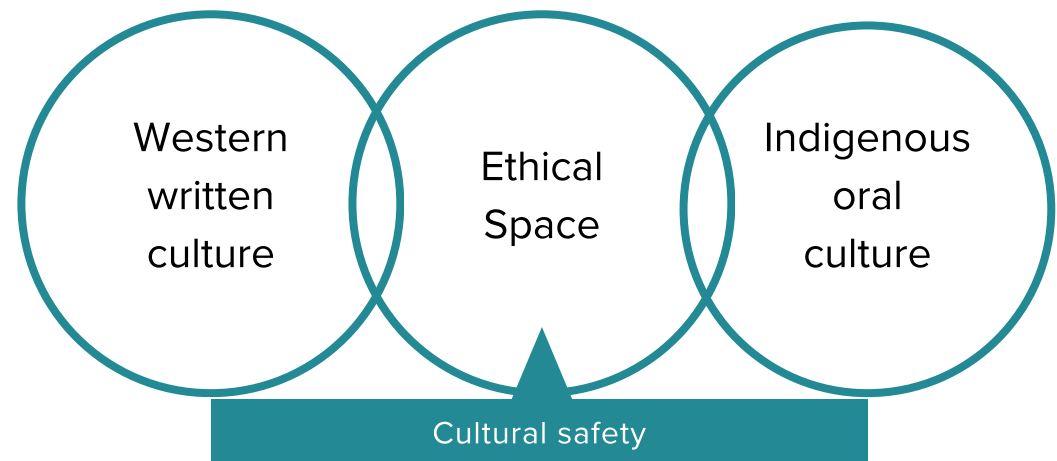
As we work towards building better relationships within and across the conservation field, several speakers highlighted the value of leaning into discomfort. Accommodating difficult conversations will help us reimagine the systems driving the climate and biodiversity crises. Globally, Indigenous peoples manage 80% of the remaining intact biodiversity.(8) This is both a challenge and an opportunity to build bridges that connect Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and practices with the culture and systems of the dominant society. Perhaps we should reframe thinking about NBS as thinking about Indigenous-based solutions. However, if we are to do that, we must first resolve the roots of conflict between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples through a process of reconciliation.

Ethical Space is a key mechanism to enable successful reconciliation, which provides the means for respectful government-to-government dialogue and to deeply “understand what is important to be understood... and create something new.”

Featured Video



An Ethical Space reflects a new way of thinking, a new way of doing things, and it doesn't diminish what already exists. Both a Western written culture and an Indigenous oral culture are distinct, with unique practices. Each culture can bring practices forward that together set the fundamental principles for how to move ahead, resulting in an ethical space—a place of cultural safety.(9)



Learn, Monitor, Adapt

“Are we doing the right thing?”

- Lauren Oakes

Regenerating healthy biodiversity and building climate resilience is hard. Many of us put enormous amounts of energy, time, and money into creating positive change while experiencing tremendous uncertainty around our impact. We must pause and ask ourselves, ‘Are we doing the right thing?’ The lack of metrics and monitoring to support our decision-making is a barrier to answering this question. We need to identify solutions that are effective and lead to durable outcomes. Unfortunately, we are not tracking a common set of metrics to help us collectively answer the question, ‘Are we getting it right?’ The inherent complexity of biodiversity makes a common set of metrics difficult to achieve, unlike so many of our climate solutions that are largely tied to CO2 equivalents. Not surprisingly, we have yet to fully define approaches to track and measure the suite of co-benefits associated with NBS.

Without consistent tracking of sufficient and comparable metrics over time, it is difficult to implement effective adaptive management programs within a project or at a larger policy scale. This gap limits our ability to appropriately advance effective approaches and techniques. Adaptive management and its associated monitoring need to be planned strategically from the beginning of a project and sustained throughout its life. Conversely, speakers noted that effective long-term monitoring can take time to produce results, which conflicts with the urgency to invest in and implement widespread solutions.

To improve adaptive management, we need a clearer understanding of what success looks like in terms of nature-based solutions and their outcomes. Developing a consensus around a common set of performance metrics related to NBS, biodiversity, and climate is required to ensure nature-positive outcomes. The full suite of NBS co-benefits is still



“ Maybe it is less about right and wrong and more about striving for better as people learn from the challenges and successes of their work as it unfolds over time.

- Lauren Oakes

poorly measured and understood. One of the major barriers to effective application is the lack of interest from government or philanthropic funders in supporting sustained multi-year monitoring programs. This limits the capacity of organizations to build long-term assessment and learning into their planning processes from the beginning.

Western monitoring requirements create barriers to Indigenous communities

In seeking to improve and sustain the use of metrics, monitoring, and adaptive management, speakers elevated the tension between conventional Western and TEK approaches. TEK is often built and shared around storytelling and non-quantitative measures, conflicting with conventional Western metrics and performance indicators. The limited funding available for monitoring typically prioritizes quantitative performance indicators. This creates an obstacle for Indigenous peoples' access to critical funding for projects. Maybe more importantly, it also prevents the development of human capacity and cross-cultural trust-building. As a result, speakers called upon the conservation community to recognize and respect that Indigenous peoples do not need Western science and data to validate TEK. We must work together to fund and co-create models of support that are more respectful and inclusive of Indigenous ways of knowing.

Climate solutions must be nature-positive solutions

Another important concept emerging throughout Symposium discussions was the need for intentional planning to avoid potential conflicts between climate and biodiversity solutions. Climate change is often seen as more urgent than biodiversity loss,⁽¹⁰⁾ partly because climate threats and solutions receive better-developed messaging and measurements than fractured ecosystem services and functions. Promoting and incorporating nature-based solutions can help balance this tension. However, there is still a need for policies that fully analyze and prioritize the impacts of climate solutions to ensure no unintended consequences for biodiversity, ecosystems, and communities. We cannot let the sense of urgency around solving climate change over the long term supersede concerns about how those strategies or projects can negatively impact efforts and goals for protecting biodiversity and ensuring positive, equitable outcomes for communities.

Empower

“A vision without resources is little more than a hallucination.”
- Àngel Peña

Despite unprecedented financial commitments by federal governments, we still face an enormous financing gap in achieving our climate and biodiversity goals. This is true globally and in North America, with an estimated global Biodiversity Financing Gap of \$598-824 billion USD annually.(11) While philanthropy has made large investments in NBS, we still do not have sufficient, equitably distributed financial resources to meet this moment. We need a cross-sector, all-of-government approach to find creative ways to support this work.

Building financial sustainability for NBS through private-sector investment

We heard consensus that much of the private sector supports investing in NBS and is pivoting their operations to intentionally support these solutions. Still, significant barriers remain to the private sector’s investment in more impactful and innovative approaches and projects. Those barriers include a lack of consensus and transparency around systems for assessing risk and the impact of the work, especially when it comes to biodiversity. A clearer understanding of cost-benefit in relationship to biodiversity and to its associated metrics is needed to accelerate effective private-sector investment. These companies have already implemented the easier, low-hanging fruit of NBS projects. Now they need help tackling the more challenging and complex ones. Importantly, the corporate sector needs better processes for working with frontline communities.

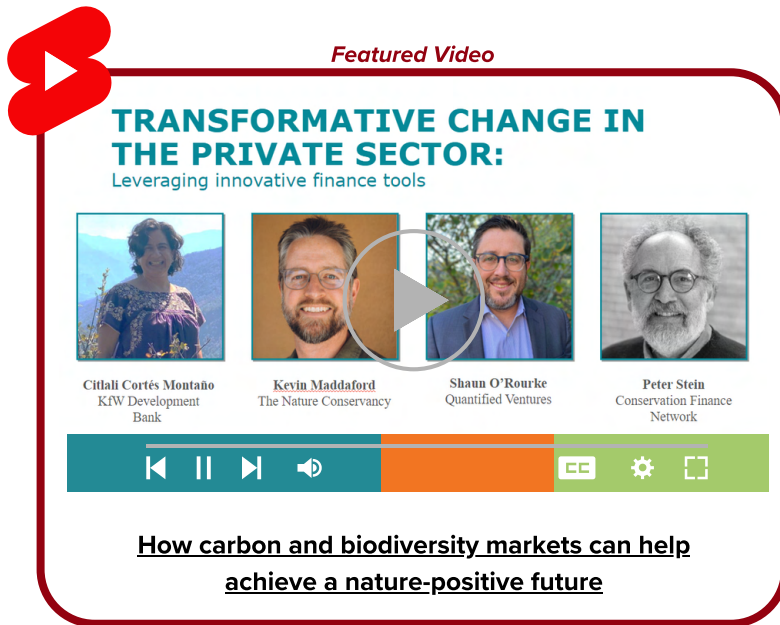


“ *The America the Beautiful for All team was really born out of an idea—that conservation is the consequence of the deliberate and authentic cultivation of community.... A vision without resources is little more than a hallucination.*

- Àngel Peña

Speakers reflected upon emerging carbon and biodiversity markets and how these markets can potentially supply ‘additive’ funds. However, practitioners remain concerned about these markets’ overall transparency and accountability. International efforts such as the [Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures](#) and the [Science-based Targets Initiative](#) are working to help alleviate these concerns through transparent and durable reporting mechanisms. There is a tremendous need for cross-sector trust-building so that practitioners can be confident that claims of market benefits for people and nature accrue equitably and are measurable and meaningful. While funding sources, like environmental markets, are important, practitioners and policymakers can do more with existing funding sources. How can we be creative with the existing monetary sources to stack funding to drive greater and longer-lasting impacts?

The finance and corporate sectors need a clearer understanding of the benefits of biodiversity protection and how biodiversity loss puts investment at risk. This knowledge gap creates a barrier to further biodiversity investment from the finance sector. Additional data and messaging regarding biodiversity co-benefits and metrics to support tracking those co-benefits are deeply needed.



Featured Video

TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR:
Leveraging innovative finance tools

Citlali Cortés Montañó
KfW Development Bank

Kevin Maddaford
The Nature Conservancy

Shaun O'Rourke
Quantified Ventures

Peter Stein
Conservation Finance Network

How carbon and biodiversity markets can help achieve a nature-positive future

One critical opportunity that speakers raised concerning financing NBS projects is that we should not just focus on developing novel tools like environmental markets but also consider how existing financial instruments are barriers to delivering positive outcomes for biodiversity and climate efforts. We need to reform financial subsidies that harm nature and exacerbate climate impacts, such as those for fossil fuels and large-scale agriculture. This will require collaborating with policymakers across North America to examine and dismantle subsidy programs that inadvertently provide obstacles to their national and international climate and biodiversity goals.

Disinvestment in frontline communities

Throughout the dialogue, speakers highlighted the importance of recognizing the expertise and human capital that already exist within frontline communities. Frontline communities know what they need and have ideas for solutions to meet their challenges, but they often lack investment. One barrier to investment is the spatial mismatch between community-led projects and environmental markets. Investors typically require larger spatial scales for investment, while most community-led projects operate at much smaller scales. For example, the blue carbon projects highlighted at the Symposium struggle to access carbon markets because they are small and not aggregated.

There is a strong need to create and support a pipeline of projects ready for investment. Finally, we must develop better processes for equitable benefit sharing of financing efforts like carbon or biodiversity markets. While this is true for all frontline communities, speakers stressed a particular need for working with Indigenous communities on benefit sharing of these market and other financing tools.

“ *The challenge was just getting it started, and getting the proof that it would work, before we could get the funding to do large-scale projects. So we are right at that point now where we have successfully done the planning and the first implementation phase in two wetlands in San Diego County. And now that we have that, we can show 'look it worked', now we are starting to see more success and getting the funding to expand into other areas.*

- Angela Kemsley



Urgency & Scale

“We can win on this.” - Sacha Spector

Throughout the Symposium, participants expressed a deep urgency to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss, and interconnected and converging threats. At the same time, we must balance this urgency with the need to deliver the right outcomes, which can take significant time. Our speakers also recognized that as a conservation community, we have never had as much federal government support as we do now. So, how do we leverage this moment of federal momentum to create change and spur a ‘restoration economy’ that can outlast changes in political support or administrations? We need to push the kinds of catalytic, transformative systems change that will connect the people on the ground to resources equitably and effectively.

Closely tied to the discussion of urgency was the notion of scale. We have many effective tools and model projects. Are we missing opportunities to meet the urgency of the moment because we are not scaling already-proven NBS work? Conversely, many Symposium speakers cautioned that there are no ‘silver arrow solutions,’ and trying to scale place-based projects to new areas may not work. Scaling needs to be understood within the project’s local context. Our conservation community should also consider focusing on replicating and scaling effective processes across communities facing similar challenges rather than trying to replicate projects. Getting to scale will require tailoring strategies to place and people while applying the process and techniques that we know are effective.



“Most of society is talking about decarbonization and carbon neutrality by 2050, that is too late.... There is a paradox in everything we do, I call it the intergenerational climate equity paradox.... You can do all you want but if you choose unwisely and resources are limited, we are condemning future generations to climate collapse and more. So we don't have time to err at this point.

- Daniel Taillant

Engaging the next generation of conservation leaders

As we continue to strive for equitable nature-based solutions, speakers repeatedly raised the need for the conservation community to focus on the role that youth can play in shaping solutions. Not only will today's youth have to shoulder the burdens of decisions made by previous generations, but younger generations are also a source of ideas and innovation. We have a meaningful opportunity to integrate Indigenous youth's TEK by addressing institutional barriers that have prevented their participation in traditional conservation fields. Building stronger intergenerational equity can help lead to more durable nature-based solutions and better support for future generations.



“ *I think we have to build ourselves, as a community, around the idea that we're not only making progress but that we can win on this.*
- Sacha Spector

Lastly, throughout the symposium, we heard that potential conflicts between climate and biodiversity solutions need to be resolved. We cannot let our greater sense of urgency around climate change supersede concerns about biodiversity protection or, worse, negatively impact biodiversity protection goals and equitable outcomes for communities. Good, effective policies will fully analyze and prioritize the impacts of climate solutions to ensure there are no unintended consequences for biodiversity, ecosystems, and communities.

Session Summaries & Key Takeaways



Day 1
Wednesday, October 11 - Morning Sessions

The 5th Annual INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM on CONSERVATION IMPACT

presented by the DORIS DUKE FOUNDATION

WELCOME

WE are FAMILY and are making a HUGE IMPACT

LUIS BENITEZ
our emcee

AMY PARSONS

WE MEET TODAY ON THE LAND OF THE...
ARAPAHO UTE CHEYENNE

THINK ABOUT SHARE

- 1 SALAZAR CENTER STRENGTHS?
- 2 GAPS in the FIELD?
- 3 OPPORTUNITIES?

LESLIE HARROW

INTRODUCING the NEW SALAZAR Center Executive Director

CLIMATE CHANGE

BIODIVERSITY LOSS

Solving these intertwined crisis WITH ALL HANDS from ALL SECTORS and COMMUNITIES & NATURE AT THE CENTER

INDIGENOUS NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

INDIGENOUS APPROACHES TO ADVANCE CLIMATE and BIODIVERSITY SOLUTIONS:

The role for TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

GWEN BRIDGE

JAMES RATTLING LEAF

Moderated by JEN KOVECSE'S

WOLAKOTA connecting earth to sky

TRIBAL CLIMATE LEADERS

INTERGENERATIONAL KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

PROGRESS moves at the SPEED OF TRUST

KINSHIP

what is nature telling us?

ETHICAL SPACE

WESTERN world view

INDIGENOUS world view

RECONCILIATION

SYSTEM OUTCOMES

HUMAN DECISIONS

SYSTEM OUTCOMES

EARTH

HUMAN DECISIONS

LIVING

SETTING THE STAGE: THE STATE OF NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS in NORTH AMERICA through a lens of...

SCIENCE COMMUNITY EQUITY and POLICY

with EQUITY AT THE CENTER OF

IS NOT EQUAL

WEIGHT OF BURDEN

creating a MOSAIC of SOLUTIONS

DESIGN IMPLEMENTATION SUSTAINMENT

LYDIA OLANDER

CRYSTAL UPPERMAN

Moderated by JODI HILTY

U.S. GOV. Strategies

- ACCOUNTING FOR NATURE
- NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS Roadmap
- WORKFORCE STRENGTHENING

NATURE is a LINCHPIN for CORPORATE Sustainability

EMBED. Monitoring INTO CAPACITY BUILDING for COMMUNITIES

HOPE, PROGRESS and OPPORTUNITIES

the UN DECADE of ECOSYSTEM Restoration

SCALING that is LOCALLY-LED

THE POWER of URBAN NATURE

BISON BIOMIMICRY

PETER BYCK

RESEARCH From the SOUTHEAST US 2018-2022

ROOTS SO DEEP: How can regenerative grazing benefit climate and biodiversity?

THE CONVENTIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD LOOKING... BYT WOULD THEY CHANGE?

AMP: ADAPTIVE MULTI-Paddock Crazing

RESULTS

- increased CARBON SEQUESTRATION
- MICROBE AMOUNT & DIVERSITY
- FARMER SAVINGS
- CATTLE CAPACITY
- INSECT & BIRD DIVERSITY
- WATER RETENTION

the GOAL is for ALL FARMERS in the WORLD to SEE THIS FILM

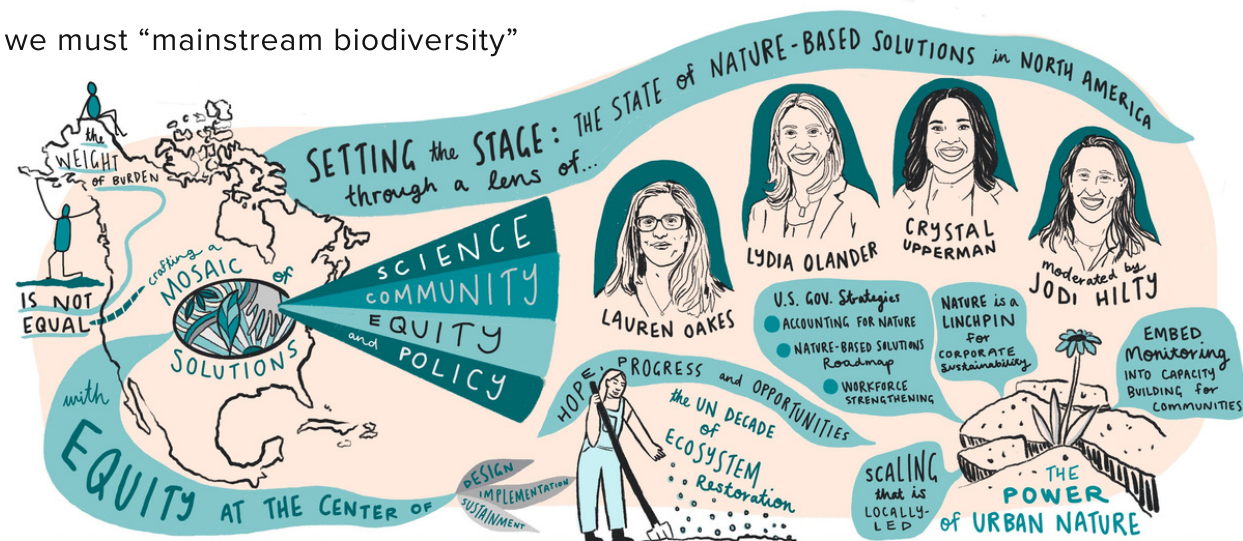
Setting the Stage: The state of nature-based solutions in North America through a lens of science, community, equity, and policy


- Lauren Oakes, Adjunct Professor, Conservation Scientist, Science Writer, Stanford University
- Lydia Olander, Director, Ecosystem Services Program, Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment & Sustainability, Duke University
- Crystal Upperman, Senior Manager, Deloitte
- Moderated by Jodi Hilty, President and Chief Scientist, Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y)

This session is an introduction to how NBS can address climate and biodiversity challenges by scaling solutions, addressing the challenges and opportunities for working with the corporate sector, and “mainstreaming” biodiversity.

Takeaways:

- The successful implementation of NBS for climate and nature resilience requires adaptive management and continuous monitoring. This requires funding and planning for monitoring from the beginning, making data more accessible to key decision-makers, and improving the efficacy of data collection, management, and tools.
- NBS implementation must reconcile national and global targets with local execution. The planning for and application of solutions must center equity and prioritize collaboration with local communities, cross-sector partners, and nontraditional stakeholders. Similarly, best practices and useful tools should be shared across communities that face similar challenges to help them scale while recognizing that no “silver bullets” exist.
- To incorporate NBS into our societal DNA, we must “mainstream biodiversity” across sectors, agencies, and society. There is a potential for conflict between climate and biodiversity initiatives. Still, it is essential to recognize that we cannot do one without the other because they are inextricably linked.



 [Watch this session](#)

Indigenous approaches to advance climate and biodiversity solutions: The role for Traditional Ecological Knowledge

- Gwen Bridge, CEO, Gwen Bridge Consulting; member of the Saddle Lake Cree Nation
- James Rattling Leaf, Principal, Wolakota Lab LLC; citizen of the Oceti Sakowin, Sicangu Lakota
- Moderated by Jen Kovacs, Assistant Director of Programs, Salazar Center

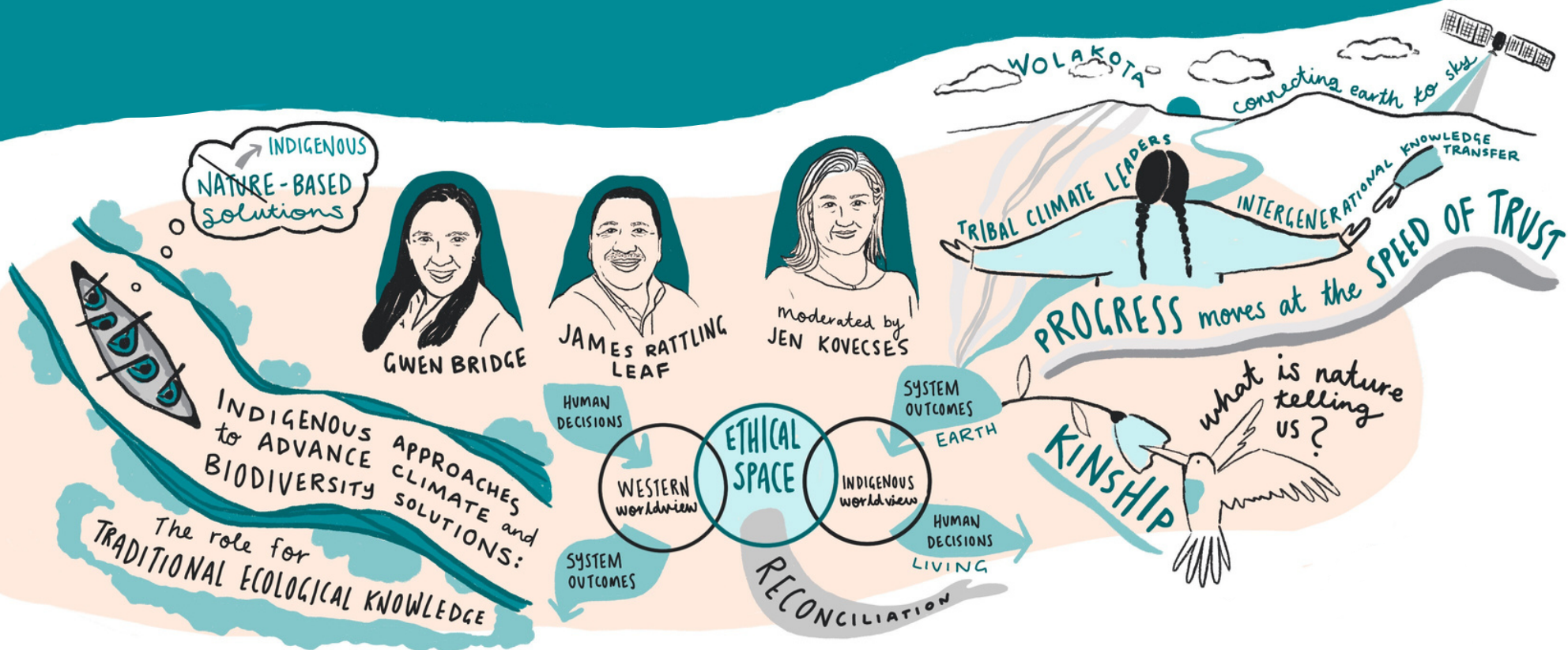
In this inspiring and transformative session, Gwen Bridge and James Rattling Leaf from the [Indigenous Engagement Institute](#) introduce participants to the Ethical Space framework. They share how the conservation community and beyond can meaningfully engage with Indigenous groups and TEK. The speakers also discuss the importance of kinship and trust, the need for institutional change to incorporate Indigenous knowledge, and the importance of creating opportunities for Indigenous youth to participate in the science and conservation fields.

Takeaways:

- Nature-based solutions are Indigenous solutions. The solution to our climate and biodiversity challenges is not in monitoring or money; it is in Indigenous management, which requires Western practitioners, scientists, and policymakers to trust in the validity of TEK.
- There is a need for reconciliation between Indigenous and Western worldviews and knowledge systems to foster mutual respect and understanding between nations. Meaningful reconciliation requires the decolonization of our institutions and the understanding that we need to support the healing of the relationship between Indigenous people and their land.
- Ethical Space is a framework to support the execution of the reconciliation process. It can be a powerful mechanism for understanding why Indigenous groups do not want to subjugate their laws and practices to Western regimes of management and policy validation.



[Watch this session](#)



[▶ Watch this session](#)

Takeaways (continued):

- Kinship and relationship are foundational to Indigenous culture. Partners who hope to engage with Tribes and First Nations must take the necessary time to build relationships and establish trust. Intergenerational knowledge sharing should be prioritized, and we must examine how our institutions can better support the inclusion and empowerment of Indigenous youth to enable their success in conservation and beyond.
- The four Rs of working successfully with Indigenous groups are respect, reciprocity, relational, and responsibility. Partners wanting to engage Tribes should consider these aspects as they build relationships.

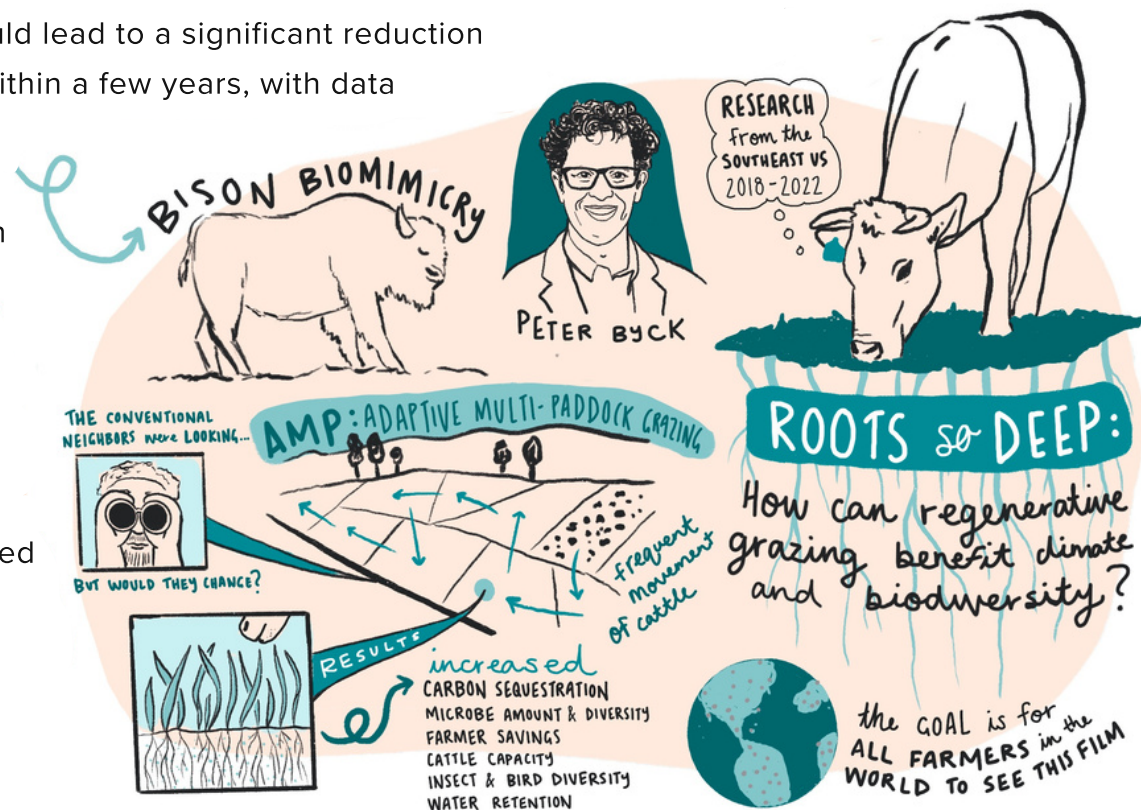
Roots So Deep: Building a path to solving climate change with hooves, heart, and soil

- Peter Byck, Professor of Practice, School of Sustainability, College of Global Futures, Arizona State University

In this session, Peter Byck shares how his work combines storytelling with rigorous science to document the benefits of a land management strategy known as adaptive multi-paddock grazing (AMP) that tries to emulate the natural grazing habits of bison on modern farms. His team includes scientists and filmmakers who worked with farmers in the Southeast to compare AMP and conventional farming's effects on carbon sequestration and biodiversity restoration.

Takeaways:

- The data collected by the Roots So Deep science team indicates that AMP can benefit climate and biodiversity by sequestering carbon, contributing to ecosystem services such as water infiltration and soil health, and promoting biodiversity by creating a more diverse range of plant species and habitats. On AMP farms, results showed a 33% increase in insect diversity, a 50% increase in bird diversity, and 25% more numerous and active soil microbes.
- If more farmers adopt regenerative grazing, it could lead to a significant reduction in carbon emissions and a gigaton-level impact within a few years, with data from the study showing AMP farms drawing down the equivalent of 3.3 tons per hectare of carbon per year compared to just 0.9 tons per hectare on conventional farms.
- AMP is a powerful solution to scale across North America. Still, it takes time to build relationships with landowners and break down the barriers to drive change, which include the cost of adapting their practices, lack of knowledge, and deep-rooted values and practices in conventional farming.



[▶ Watch this session](#)

Day 1

Wednesday, October 11 - Afternoon Sessions

The 5th Annual INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM on CONSERVATION IMPACT

presented by the DORIS DUKE FOUNDATION

TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE in the private sector

PART 1: BRIDGING CLIMATE and NATURE

EQUITY and AFFORDABILITY

USED MARKETS

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

moving towards a

- 1 REDUCE OPERATIONS IMPACT
- 2 REDUCE SUPPLY CHAIN IMPACTS
- 3 PROTECTING THE LAND WHERE WE SOURCE MATERIALS

WORKING directly with FARMERS, GROWERS & RANCHERS

JEANNIE RENNÉ-MALONE

BLUE CARBON CONSERVATION ACROSS BORDERS

BINATIONAL BLUE CARBON EFFORTS in NORTH AMERICA

MANGROVES have 5x the carbon sequestration than terrestrial ecosystems

CALIFORNIA & MEXICO

BLUE CARBON STRATEGY

- 1 LEGAL PROTECTION
- 2 RESTORATION
- 3 CO-MANAGEMENT
- 4 RESEARCH
- 5 POLICY
- 6 COMMUNICATION
- 7 NETWORKING

NEED FOR LONG-TERM FUNDING

planning for SEA-LEVEL RISE

HOW MUCH CARBON is being stored?

TANNIA FRAUSTO

ANGELA KEMSLEY

moderated by ALONSO AGUIRRE

PART 2: HOW CARBON and BIODIVERSITY MARKETS can HELP ACHIEVE a NATURE-POSITIVE FUTURE

GROWTH of IMPACT INVESTMENTS

FOREST CARBON MARKETS

focus on QUALITY INTEGRITY TRANSPARENCY

STACKING FUNDING to MEET this MOMENT

WHAT ARE THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY?

FOCUS ON FUNDING to support PROTECTED AREAS IN MEXICO

PAYING landowners UPFRONT

BALANCE WITH WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT

CITLALI CORTÉS MONTAÑO

KEVIN MADDAFORD

SHAUN O'ROURKE

moderated by PETER STEIN

LEGACY and ECONOMICS messaging

HOW TO FRAME THE ISSUE

Solutions vs. Problems

PERSONAL CONNECTIONS

Resilience in nature is hard to understand

UTILIZE TRUSTED PARTIES

Videos are compelling

OUR focus is NATURE-BASED Solutions

SHOWING THEM THAT THEIR CONSTITUENTS DO CARE

Helping them step out of the reactive feedback loop

ENGAGING CONSERVATIVE POLITICIANS

HUNTERS & ANGLERS are deeply AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

CONSERVATIVE VOICES in CLIMATE CHANGE


TIFFANY TURNER

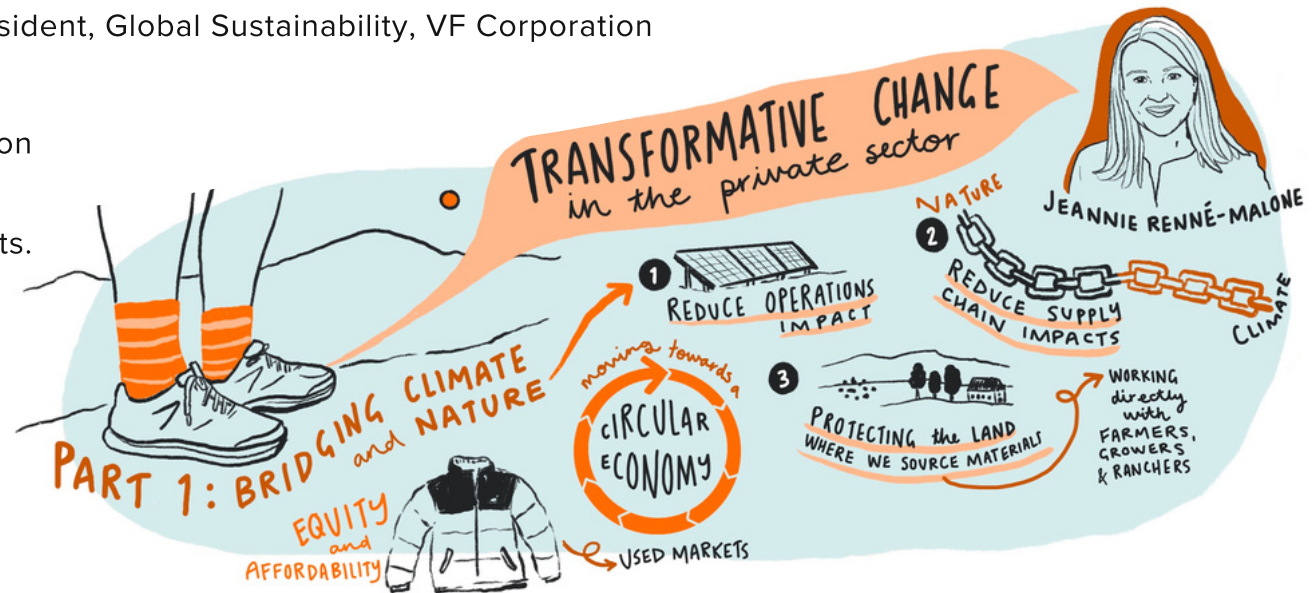
FUNDAMENTALLY we must CHANGE BEHAVIOR

Transformative change in the private sector, Part 1: Bridging climate and nature

- Jeannie Renée-Malone, Vice President, Global Sustainability, VF Corporation

In this session, Jeannie shares the sustainability practices VF Corporation incorporates across its operations to drive climate and biodiversity benefits.

 [Watch this session](#)




Takeaways:

- VF has seen a monetary return on investment from their pursuit of sustainable practices, particularly investing in regenerative agriculture, which comes from a commitment to being involved in on-the-ground operations.
- Their key strategies for achieving sustainability goals include reducing their impact across direct operations, managing the supply chain, and improving materials and products used. They are actively setting science-based targets so that VF can continuously monitor and measure their impact on the planet and their benefits to communities and people.
- VF and other companies need to explore how to make more affordable product options to support equitable pricing in the private sector, as many outdoor brands are inaccessible to most consumers. Sourcing and producing sustainable options often lead to high price tags, and the challenge of balancing this while providing affordable and equitable pricing is unresolved.

Transformative change in the private sector, Part 2: How carbon and biodiversity markets can help achieve a nature-positive future

- Citlali Cortés Montaña, Senior Sector Coordinator, Biodiversity and Forestry, KfW Development Bank
- Kevin Maddaford, Director of U.S. and Canada Carbon Markets, The Nature Conservancy
- Shaun O'Rourke, Director, Quantified Ventures
- Moderated by Peter Stein, Co-founder, Conservation Finance Network

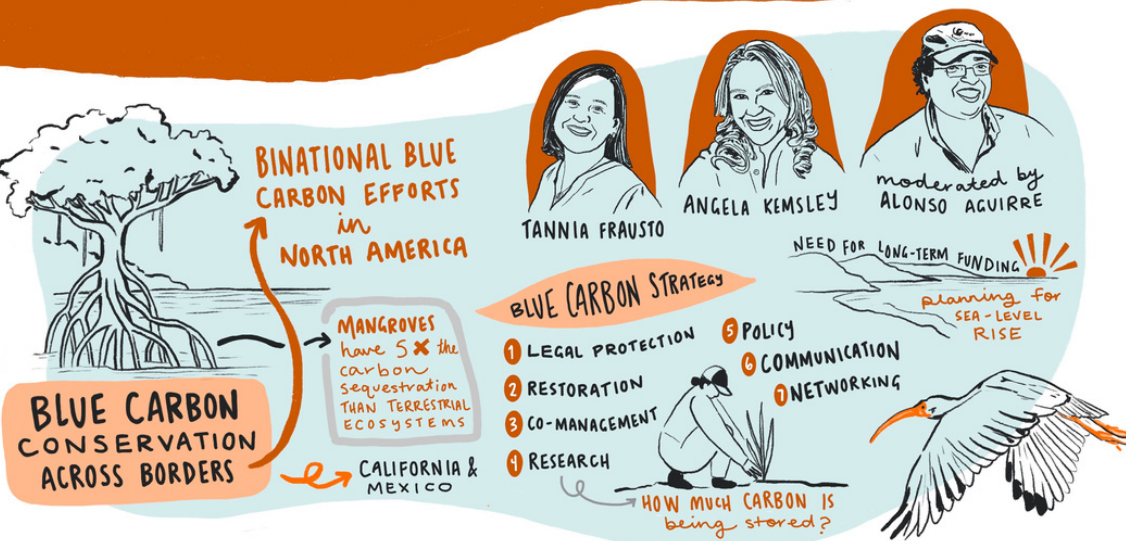
This panel discussion explores the public and private financing opportunities available to organizations and communities to build climate-resilient, nature-positive landscapes and strategies to overcome the barriers to accessing funding. Speakers shared a variety of innovative financing mechanisms that can support conservation efforts across North America.

 [Watch this session](#)



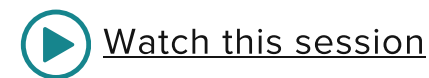
Takeaways (continued):

- Given the suite of federal and private opportunities becoming available to fund projects, it is important for organizations to explore and stack a diversity of funding and financing approaches. There is a newly emerging role for the private sector to accelerate capital into nature-based solutions projects while developing and incorporating more innovative financing mechanisms for NBS than are currently available.
- Smaller organizations with less capacity need external parties to support them by providing access to new funding and financing opportunities, focusing on communities that have historically been left out.
- There is increased focus from the financial sector to develop markets for biodiversity, but creating these markets is not as straightforward as establishing carbon markets, as measuring biodiversity is a complex process, with both more factors to capture and different indicators across projects, regions, and ecosystems. There may be an opportunity to incorporate biodiversity as a co-benefit of carbon markets rather than creating entirely new mechanisms.
- Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) initiatives create more interesting and complex conversations around project design and implementation. Private companies can take a more proactive role in adopting a long-term perspective on sustainability and increase their return on investment while being positive drivers of change.



Blue carbon conservation across borders: Binational blue carbon efforts in North America

- Tannia Frausto, Climate Change Director, WILDCOAST
- Angela Kemsley, Conservation Director, WILDCOAST
- Moderated by Alonso Aguirre, Dean, Warner College of Natural Resources, CSU



Representatives from WILDCOAST share their work around blue carbon as a tool for climate resilience and biodiversity conservation in the U.S. and Mexico. Projects center on restoring and conserving mangrove forests, seagrasses, salt marshes, and help forests to provide coastal resilience and social benefits.

Takeaways:

- Blue carbon projects are a powerful nature-based solution that can sequester carbon at rates up to 2.5 times greater than terrestrial carbon projects while providing meaningful benefits for coastal species and communities through climate adaptation and mitigation. To succeed, projects must be planned with future climate scenarios in mind and an adaptive management mindset incorporating a suite of solutions.
- When projects are executed in direct partnership with communities each step of the way, they can provide social co-benefits, including gender equality, reduced poverty through job creation, sharing of stories, and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- One challenge that blue carbon faces is that the current structure of carbon markets requires projects with a large surface area, and there is very limited habitat left in coastal areas that meets this requirement. The result is that blue carbon has not been able to access capital through emerging market mechanisms.


Conservative voices in climate change

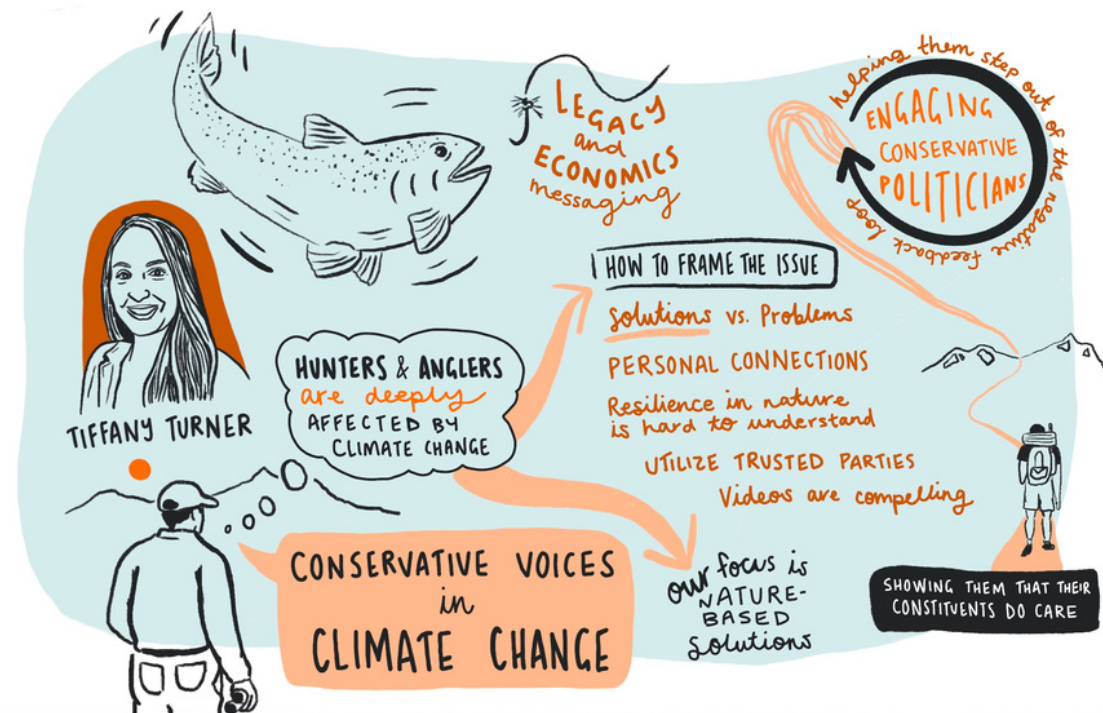
- Tiffany Turner, Director of Climate Solutions, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP)

In this session, Tiffany shares the work TRCP has undertaken with the hunting and angling community to better understand perceptions of climate and NBS and how to create communication and project management strategies that are more inclusive of conservative voices. She breaks down results and key takeaways from a nationwide survey of hunters and anglers to bolster our understanding of this community to support better conservation strategies.

Takeaways:

- The survey showed that 76% of respondents support nature and conservation issues, and 72% believe climate change is happening and affects them, their families, and their ability to recreate in the future.
- With these results in mind, the conservation community must be strategic about sharing climate solutions with hunters and anglers. Tiffany suggests that communications should avoid political jargon and focus on solutions; the co-benefits of projects, personal connections, and stories; and working with parties trusted by the hunting and angling community.
- Conservative communities also responded positively to messaging around the economic benefits of nature-based solutions and the “legacy message” of preserving nature for future generations.

 [Watch this session](#)



Day 2

Thursday, October 12 - Morning Sessions

The 5th Annual INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM on CONSERVATION IMPACT

presented by the DORIS DUKE FOUNDATION

WELCOME BACK!

LUIS BENITEZ Our emcee

JOCELYN HITTLE Moving into a TRANSFORMATIONAL SPACE & UNCOMFORTABLE SPACE

NEXT YEAR → What are our youth thinking?

SCALE vs TIMING MISMATCH

Connecting the DOTS: HOW U.S. FEDERAL INITIATIVES support both BIODIVERSITY and CLIMATE TARGETS

OUR STRATEGY...

- 1 NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS
- 2 EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
- 3 COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION

INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES

BRENDA MALLORY

COOPERATION on CONSERVATION across NORTH AMERICA

PRIORITIES and OUTCOMES From TRILATERAL CONSENSUS

DANIEL TAILLANT moderated by **SYLVAIN FABI**

ARE WE DOING THE RIGHT THING?

NO WE ARE NOT ON THE 1.5°C PATHWAY

WE MUST DO MORE TO AVOID TIPPING POINTS

- 1 REDUCING SUPERPOLLUTANTS
- 2 AVOIDED WARMING STRATEGIES
- 3 BUILD BACK BIODIVERSITY

WE MUST LOOK TO 2030 - NOT 100 YEAR SCENARIOS

LESSONS from COVID - in 2-3 weeks we made change

TIME for older generations to TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

how to weave together fast, POWERFUL SOLUTIONS NOW!

EMPOWERING communities

WE COME from THESE PLACES WE are fighting FOR HOME

TERESA MARTINEZ moderated by

ÁNGEL PEÑA

ROOTS IN RELATIONSHIP

Reduce what we CONSUME at the CENTER of CLIMATE and BIODIVERSITY OUTCOMES

A CASE STUDY in KEEPING COMMUNITIES at the CENTER

AMERICA the BEAUTIFUL FOR ALL COALITION

WHY WE NEED A NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

JOE NEGUSE

WE ARE A DIVIDED COUNTRY in MANY WAYS but not WHEN IT COMES TO THIS MOVEMENT

TIME TO MEET THIS MOMENT

URGENCY vs FUNDING

WE HAVE SOLUTIONS vs SHIFTING the FUNDING STICOT

ETHICAL SPACE

HOW TO UN-DO the damage WE HAVE DONE with money

REFLECTING ON cooperative opportunities ACROSS NORTH AMERICA

LESLIE HARROUN

SACHA SPECTOR

THIS TAKES ALL OF US

intergenerational

LAND USE POLICY

CHALLENGES OUR CLIMATE GOALS

REDUCES RESILIENCE

THREATENS BIODIVERSITY

SHORTAGE of > 7 MILLION AFFORDABLE UNITS WE are SPRAWLING RACIALLY MOTIVATED

CITIES need more PEOPLE (and NATURE)

TRANSFORMATION

- 1 WHAT ARE THE LOCAL POWER SYSTEMS NOW? HOW DID WE GET HERE?
- 2 INTERVENE in SYSTEMS CHANGE
- 3 DOES NOT HAVE to mean DISPLACEMENT

JEREMY HOFFMAN

CONSERVATION has a HOUSING PROBLEM

FOCUS

ON SYSTEMIC CHANGES in the AGRICULTURE and FINANCIAL SECTOR

STATE PUBLIC FINANCE vs PRIVATE sector OPPORTUNITIES

MEETING CLIMATE and NATURE GOALS in MEXICO:

Exploring challenges to meet NATIONAL Targets

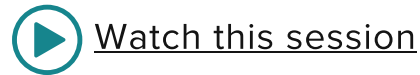
CONSERVATION FINANCE IS SOCIAL FINANCE

ALONSO MARTINEZ

Connecting the dots: How will U.S. federal initiatives support biodiversity and climate targets?

- Brenda Mallory, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality

In a pre-recorded video, Chair Mallory highlights the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to conservation, climate action, and environmental justice.



Takeaways:

- The Administration is working to inspire and invest in NBS to combat climate change and biodiversity loss through strengthened capacity and funding, including building a nature-skilled workforce and passing bills such as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.
- To promote equity and environmental justice, the Administration is prioritizing investments in nature-deprived communities, expanding access to green spaces, and improving infrastructure to create healthier communities and “embed[ding] environmental justice in the federal DNA.”
- Chair Mallory shared how collaborative conservation efforts are critical to meeting the goal of protecting 30% of lands and waters by 2030 under the "America the Beautiful" initiative. To support this, a National Nature Assessment is being conducted to create a picture of the health of the natural world across the U.S.



America the Beautiful for All Coalition: A case study in keeping communities at the center of climate and biodiversity outcomes

- Àngel Peña, Executive Director, Nuestra Tierra Conservation Project
- Teresa Martinez, Executive Director, Continental Divide Trail Coalition

In this session, Àngel and Teresa discuss their engagement with the America the Beautiful for All Coalition (ATB4A), working in community, and using education, advocacy, and "people power" to ensure historically excluded communities can access natural resources and the public land management process.



[▶ Watch this session](#)

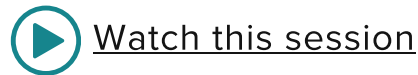
Takeaways:

- ATB4A exemplifies the power of diversity and dynamism within national conservation leadership and decision-making. ATB4A ensures frontline organizations are represented and that the coalition includes stakeholders from a wide range of issue areas and political perspectives. The coalition also prioritizes Indigenous engagement as the first step rather than a box to check at the end.
- Conservation initiatives must work with frontline organizations and Native leadership to empower marginalized communities. Success in this work is rooted in relationships and needs to be people-centered while actively working to break down the systems that have kept marginalized communities out of conversations.
- Communities need funding and resources to make a difference. Investing in frontline groups and communities is necessary to do the work.
- The conservation community must recognize the importance of having difficult conversations that address the realities of disparate communities across the continent. These conversations may involve coming to terms with uncomfortable truths about white supremacist culture in conservation and Western science.

Land use policy challenges our climate goals

- Jeremy Hoffman, Director of Climate Justice and Impact, Groundwork USA

This session explores how urban housing policy affects conservation, highlighting how cities can be housing-forward and nature-positive to benefit climate, biodiversity, and people.



Takeaways:

- Urban sprawl threatens biodiversity and climate resilience by exposing people, nature, and property to climate threats through the “expanding urban bullseye” phenomena. Zoning restrictions in the urban core can push climate impacts out to the periphery and ultimately lower resilience for all.
- Despite widespread belief, it is possible for increased urban density to coexist with lowered carbon emissions and increased biodiversity if communities take advantage of innovative green interventions that bolster nature resilience in cities.
- Cities must prioritize building green interventions into their systems while addressing racial histories that still impact communities today. Programs such as [Groundwork’s Climate Safe Neighborhoods](#) build capacity for urban communities to avoid displacement from green gentrification.





Cooperation on conservation across North America: Priorities and outcomes from trilateral consensus

- Jorge Daniel Taillant, Executive Director, Commission for Environmental Cooperation
- Moderated by Sylvain Fabi, Consul General of Canada in Denver

This important conversation between North American leaders touched on why transboundary cooperation is essential to meeting our climate and biodiversity goals and the urgency behind implementing innovative solutions at all scales.

[Watch this session](#)

Takeaways:

- To meet our climate and biodiversity goals across international boundaries, the three countries of North America need to work together. There is a need to speed up trust between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico by engaging in difficult and uncomfortable conversations on how to bolster resilience across North America.
- There is a deep urgency to implement innovative solutions at all scales, and as 2050 is too late to make the systemic changes needed, we should instead be using 2030 as a timeline for success. We must accelerate our thinking to address the urgency of climate change and make it part of our societal DNA. We need fast, powerful solutions that prioritize reducing super pollutants, avoiding warming strategies, and building back biodiversity to sequester carbon.
- There is an intergenerational climate equity paradox that will condemn future generations to climate catastrophe if we do not choose our actions wisely. Those in charge today must take action to support the next generations of leaders.

Meeting climate and nature goals in Mexico: Exploring challenges to meeting national targets

- Alonso Martínez Caballero, National Coordinator, Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) Mexico

In this session, Alonso shares his experience with the intricacies of conservation finance in Mexico and how it relates to social finance, the involvement of Indigenous peoples and local communities, and current federal government and private sector biodiversity expenditures.




Takeaways:

- Mexico has a unique land tenure system that contains a high percentage of socially-owned property and biodiversity hotspots. This has many implications, including an increased focus on social finance and social returns on investment, landscapes with a mosaic of different management types, and a unique challenge in creating effective financial instruments that support the land tenure system.
- Conservation projects in Mexico need more sustainable funding mechanisms that are less reliant on donors and more fully consider Indigenous communities. Mexico has a federal biodiversity financing gap of \$1 billion USD and must at least double its resource mobilization for biodiversity to meet its conservation targets.
- Biodiversity must be mainstreamed across Mexico to create a clear understanding of nature-positive investments and to drive fiscal reform that incentivizes positive rather than negative environmental outcomes. To achieve this, there is a need for a different approach that provides more accessible metrics, indicators, and language for the financial sector to quantify and track progress toward nature-positive investments.

Why we need a national biodiversity strategy

- Representative Joe Neguse, U.S. Representative for Colorado's 2nd Congressional District

In a pre-recorded video, Representative Neguse shares his vision to drive and develop a national biodiversity strategy in the United States and why it should be a priority across federal agencies to address the biodiversity crisis.

 [Watch this session](#)


Takeaways:

- It should be a priority across federal agencies in the U.S. to tackle the threat of declining biodiversity nationwide through a whole-of-government approach.
- A National Biodiversity Strategy, as proposed by Representative Neguse, would support ecosystems, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and communities by encouraging U.S. agencies to identify and pursue a full range of actions within existing laws, policies, and regulations. Such a strategy also would promote accountability and progress in addressing the biodiversity crisis through a new quadrennial assessment.
- NBS are a core part of the proposed strategy and would build off the historic progress the Biden Administration has made in the fight against the climate crisis while linking climate and biodiversity objectives.



Reflecting on cooperative opportunities across North America

- Sacha Spector, Program Director for the Environment, Doris Duke Foundation
- Leslie Harroun, Executive Director, Salazar Center

 [Watch this session](#)



To wrap up the formal agenda, Sacha and Leslie reflect on the widespread opportunities and desire for cooperation in addressing environmental challenges and the need for new solutions and initiatives for conservation and stewardship. They discuss strategies across sectors to help North America achieve a “nature-positive, carbon-negative, justice-forward” society.

Takeaways:

- To reach our climate and biodiversity goals, we need to build a holistic, shared agenda that prioritizes multi-solving and collaboration across sectors and political spectra. Nature is “unbelievably popular” and is one of the few topics that can bring almost everyone together.
- We lack an industrial policy for nature, creating huge potential to bolster a restoration economy using public and private funds in new ways that promote Ethical Space and address the harm caused by money in the past.
- For the first time, the world is in a state of financial abundance and public support for conservation, leaving the challenge of how to seize the moment and ensure significant funds get put toward NBS led by communities.
- There is still a need for more philanthropy in the climate and nature space, and the wealthiest 5% need a better understanding of the urgency of nature loss and its interconnectedness to other critical social issues to motivate greater giving to conservation efforts.
- It’s time to act on overwhelming evidence that our economic and financial systems as designed are destroying our climate, biodiversity, and cultural fabric. We must courageously and collaboratively reframe and repurpose economics and our conception of wealth to ensure these systems work in service of a better world.

Day 2

Thursday, October 12 - Breakout Sessions

The 5th Annual INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM on CONSERVATION IMPACT

presented by the DORIS DUKE FOUNDATION

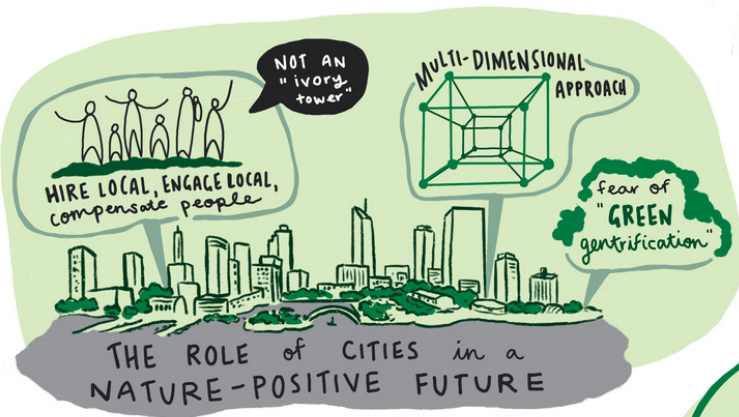
THE ROLE OF CITIES in a NATURE-POSITIVE FUTURE

NOT AN "Ivory tower"

HIRE LOCAL, ENGAGE LOCAL, compensate people

MULTI-DIMENSIONAL APPROACH

Fear of "GREEN gentrification"



Interactive Breakout Sessions



'NATURE-POSITIVE COMMUNITIES'

LOCAL WORK, knowledge & networks that can

(NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL) "STICKS" POLICY

CREATE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED FOR COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

Find BALANCE between

HOW TO MAKE SURE YOUR WORK resonates with a COMMUNITY?

"CARROTS" (BUILDING LOCAL COMMUNITY CHANGE)

SHOULD COMMUNITY WORK BE SCALED?

SCALING UP FOR IMPACT?



FINANCING a NATURE-POSITIVE FUTURE through CARBON and BIODIVERSITY MARKETS

ESTABLISH a holistic APPROACH

VALUE BOTH BIODIVERSITY & CLIMATE OBJECTIVES

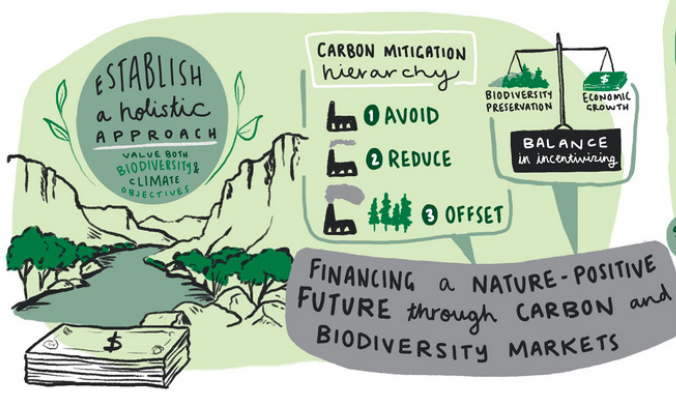
CARBON MITIGATION hierarchy

- 1 AVOID
- 2 REDUCE
- 3 OFFSET

BALANCE in incentivizing

BIODIVERSITY PRESERVATION

ECONOMIC GROWTH



THE ROLE OF PRIVATE LANDS in a NATURE-POSITIVE FUTURE

landowner perspectives

WE NEED to talk more about the AG COMMUNITY

PRIORITIZE MENTAL HEALTH

WHY DO YOU LOVE the LAND?

I'M ALREADY DOING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

SPEAK THEIR LANGUAGE

SHARED PRIORITIES

Working lands are a part of NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS



THE NEXUS between TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE and NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Integration of TEK and WESTERN SCIENCE THROUGH STORYTELLING

MEASURING SUCCESS Through TRUST

HOW TO GIVE STORIES MORE VALUE?

the DEPTH of INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE is profound

HARD TO UNDERSTAND THIS THROUGH a Western lens

PARTNERSHIPS to build a COMMON LANGUAGE

Final Reflections

CULTIVATING a safe space AT THE SALAZAR CENTER to bridge GAPS BETWEEN CULTURES, PERSPECTIVES and SECTORS

We leave here and get busy... THE CONNECTIONS MADE HERE can be the BRIDGE

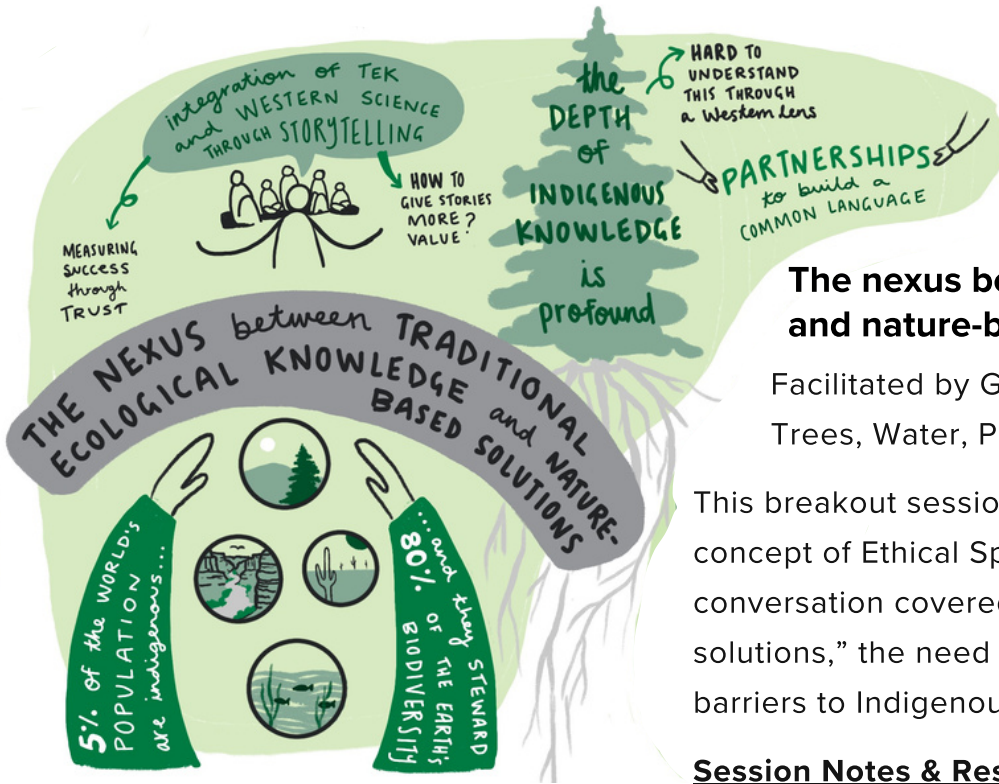
5% of the world's POPULATION are indigenous...

80% of the earth's BIODIVERSITY are found in STEWARDED lands

LESLIE HARROUN

LUIS BENITEZ





The nexus between Traditional Ecological Knowledge and nature-based solutions

Facilitated by Gwen Bridge, Gwen Bridge Consulting; and James Calabaza, Trees, Water, People.

This breakout session provided a space for participants to dive deeper into the concept of Ethical Space, introduced in an [earlier session of the Symposium](#). The conversation covered cross-validation of knowledge, “Indigenous-based solutions,” the need for investment in Indigenous communities, and addressing barriers to Indigenous groups' access to public and private funding.

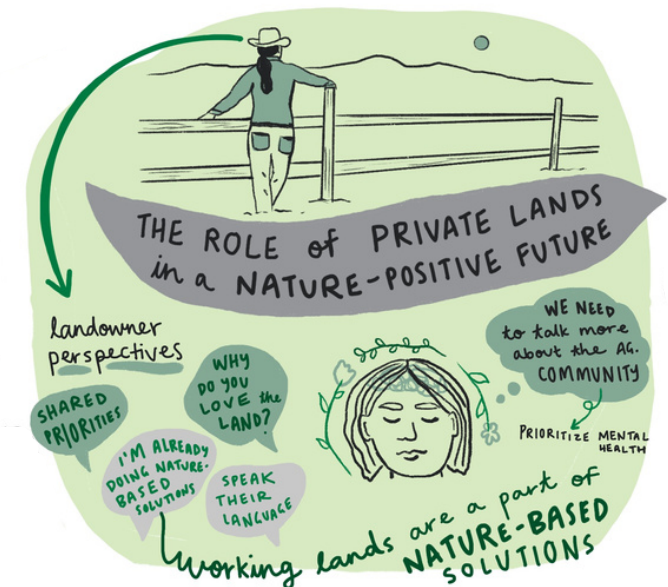
Session Notes & Resources

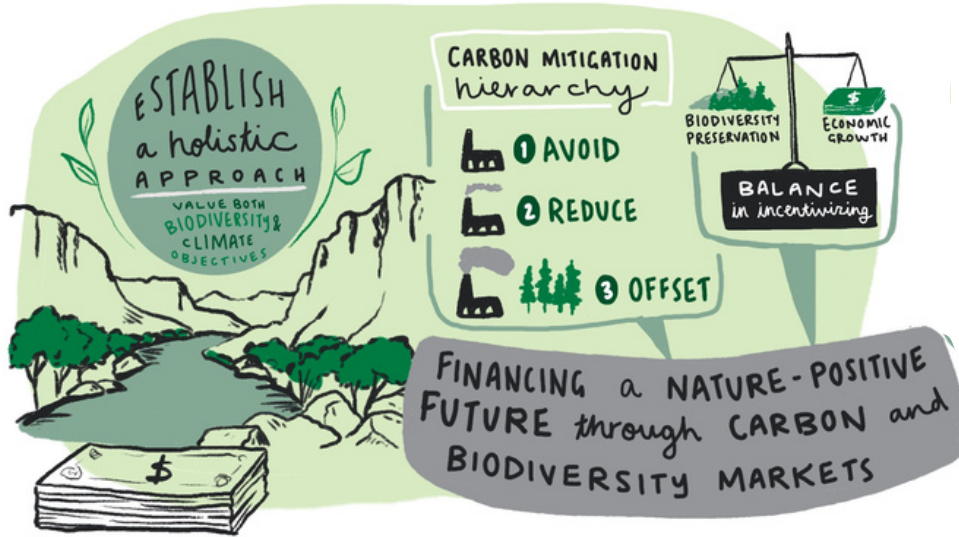
The role of private lands in a nature-positive future

Facilitated by Dirk Rasmussen, Colorado Open Lands; Helen Silver, Ground Up Consulting; Brendan Boepple, Colorado Cattlemen’s Agricultural Land Trust; and Alex Hager, KUNC.

In this breakout session, speakers and participants discussed the opportunities and challenges for implementing conservation and nature-based solutions on private lands throughout North America. Key topics included proper valuation of land, intergenerational ownership, trust-building, and incorporating biodiversity and climate into land management decisions.

Session Notes & Resources



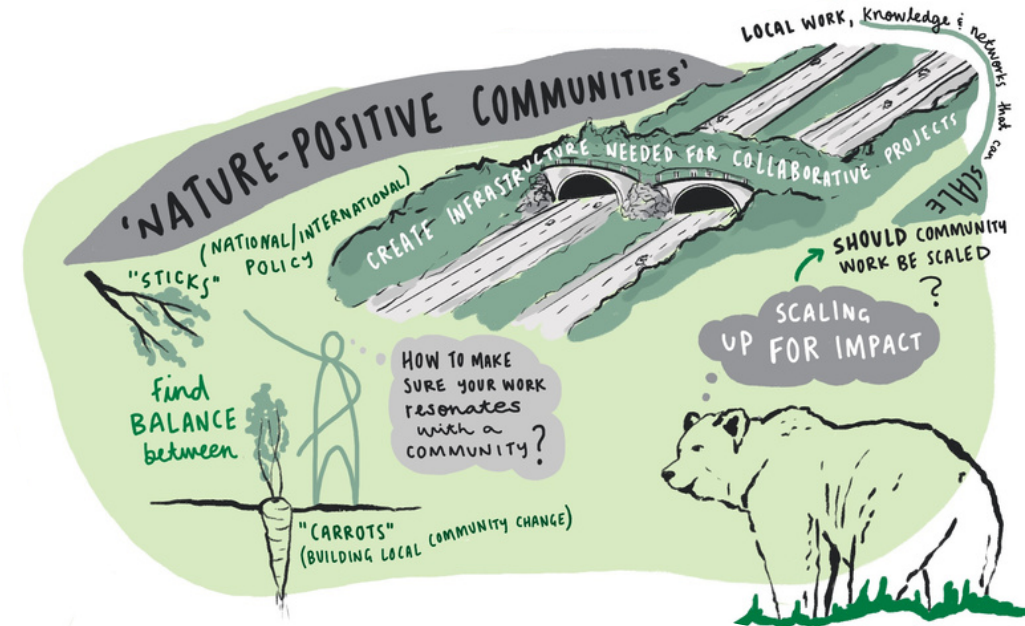


Financing a nature-positive future through carbon and biodiversity markets

Facilitated by Kevin Maddaford, The Nature Conservancy; and Katie Deuel, Center for Large Landscape Conservation.

This breakout session explored the complex, challenging, and evolving field of conservation financing while highlighting the importance of developing effective market approaches to tackle global biodiversity and environmental challenges. Key themes addressed include equity, balancing development and biodiversity goals, policy as a driver, and developing mechanisms for accountability through verification mechanisms.

Session Notes & Resources



'Nature-positive communities' - scaling up for impact: A workshop with the Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative

Facilitated by Patty Richards, Program Advisor, Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y).

This breakout session featured our friends from Y2Y to brainstorm nature-positive development in Y2Y's high-amenity and rural communities. The discussion focused on the actions, strategies, and approaches for communities and regions to develop sustainably and equitably, focusing on the potential to scale up impact from local to larger landscapes.

Session Notes & Resources

The role of cities in a nature-positive future

Facilitated by Jessica Montoya, Trust for Public Land; Cindy Chang, Groundwork Denver; and Dr. Jeremy Hoffman, Groundwork USA

In this breakout session, the conversation focused on how to best implement solutions for nature, climate, and people in urban areas. Speakers shared tools, including the Park Score Index and Chill City, to demonstrate how participants can help urban residents understand the benefits of green infrastructure in their communities. The group also explored key barriers and knowledge gaps that must be addressed for the work to be successful, including historical and social injustices and the challenges of funding and managing the work.



Session Notes & Resources

Transboundary conservation: Opportunities and progress

Facilitated by Deb Davidson, Center for Large Landscape Conservation; and Scott Brennan, Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative

In this breakout session, participants discussed and highlighted successes, challenges, and progress on a variety of transboundary conservation opportunities, with an emphasis on recent experiences and learnings across the Canada-U.S. border. This conversation built upon a collaborative effort on this topic started in 2021, featured in the third Annual Symposium, and which culminated in a report entitled [U.S. – Canada Transboundary and Indigenous-led Conservation of Nature and Culture](#).

Session Notes & Resources

Conclusion



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM on CONSERVATION IMPACT





Jen Kovecses, Assistant Director of Programs

EACH YEAR, OUR SYMPOSIUM BRINGS TOGETHER DIVERSE LEADERS

who generously share their expertise, their successes and challenges, and their views on today's most pressing conservation needs and priorities across North America. By fostering this diverse and enlightening dialogue, we aim to drive the critical conversations that must happen if we are to succeed at reversing the loss of biodiversity, reducing the harms of climate change, and ensuring that all people have a shared voice and role at the table.

In the time since we held the fifth annual Symposium on Conservation Impact, there has been tremendous work done across the globe to advance policies, local projects, and financing strategies for the climate and biodiversity issues raised at the event. Forward momentum is building, and we see many reasons to be optimistic. In the aftermath of the Montreal-Kunming Global Biodiversity Framework commitments, many organizations have made headway on ensuring that there is financial support for equitable nature outcomes. A consortium of global conservation leaders launched a new Nature Positive Initiative to promote the integrity and implementation of the Global Goal for Nature and help others stay aligned with Nature Positive goals. Importantly, nature and its role in helping to reduce risks was a key

part of the conversations and commitments at recent global gatherings including the United Nation's COP 28 Climate Change Conference and the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos. Since the Symposium, we have seen exciting follow-through from the federal government agencies in North America. The U.S. Department of the Interior recently announced more than \$157 million from President Biden's Investing in America agenda to leverage NBS work that

restores U.S. lands and waters through locally led, landscape-scale restoration projects. The Canadian government has committed to provide approximately \$66 million in funding to support 42 Indigenous-led conservation projects across the country. Mexico announced the creation of 20 new protected areas across the country, protecting roughly 2.3 million hectares of ecosystems. These commitments and more demonstrate a North American effort to bolster funding and protections for nature.

Truly achieving a nature positive future for North America is a daunting task with a long road ahead. Getting there will require the leadership and hard work of many people collaborating across sectors and at different scales—from the highest levels of policy to board rooms to local implementation and advocacy work—we must find ways to keep that momentum building while keeping people, culture, and equity centered in the work. We designed this report as a resource for our network. Read it, reflect upon it, re-watch the videos, leverage this conversation in your day-to-day work, share it with others that you think will benefit from being part of this dialogue. Keep the conversation moving! The Salazar Center is committed to working on these issues and convening diverse stakeholders to help solve the intertwined crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. We hope you find this report a valuable tool on your path towards a nature-positive North America.



Resources



Additional Resources

Throughout the 2023 Symposium, speakers shared a wide array of resources that support their work and the themes referenced in this report. While this list is not exhaustive, the following resources are recommended:

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

- [Nature-Based Terminology: Understanding the lingo that will get us to natural solutions](#)
- [What You Need to Know About Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Change](#)
- [Glossary of Natural Climate Solutions Terms](#)
- [What is nature positive and why is it the key to our future?](#)

GLOBAL CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

- [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#)
- [Climate and Clean Air Coalition](#)
- [UN Climate Action](#)
- [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#)
- [A Nature Positive World: The Global Goal for Nature](#)

CANADA GOALS AND RESOURCES

- [Climate change: our plan](#)
- [Government of Canada recognizing federal land and water to contribute to 30 by 30 nature conservation goals](#)
- [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada](#)
- [Canada's 2030 National Biodiversity Strategy](#)

MEXICO GOALS AND RESOURCES

- [KfW Bank financing in Mexico](#)
- [Biodiversity Finance Initiative Mexico](#)

MEXICO GOALS AND RESOURCES (CONTINUED)

- [Convention on Biological Diversity Mexico](#)
- [Mexico- UNDP Climate Promise](#)
- [Podcast: COP15 and Biodiversity in Mexico](#)

UNITED STATES GOALS AND RESOURCES

- [Nature Based Solutions Roadmap 1.0](#)
- [Nature Based Solutions Resource Guide 2.0](#)
- [National Nature Assessment](#)
- [USGS- Climate and Nature Assessment](#)
- [Conservation and Stewardship Atlas](#)
- [America the Beautiful Initiative](#)
- [Justice40 Initiative](#)
- [National Biodiversity Strategy factsheet](#)

ARTICLES AND RESEARCH

- [The "Expanding Bull's-Eye Effect"](#)
- [Projected land-use change impacts on ecosystem services in the United States-](#)
- [Denser and greener cities: Green interventions to achieve both urban density and nature](#)
- [Natural climate solutions](#)
- [Roots so Deep: Adaptive multi-paddock grazing published research](#)

MARKETS AND ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS

- [Dynamic Baseline methodology \(under Verra\)](#)
- [Integrity Council for Voluntary Carbon Markets](#)
- [Family Forest Carbon Program](#)
- [Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative](#)
- [Blue Carbon Collaborative](#)
- [Global Mangrove Alliance](#)
- [Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures](#)
- [Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures](#)
- [3 Breakthroughs to Transform Climate Finance- WRI](#)
- [Biodiversity/ Nature-positive Series- PwC](#)
- [VF Sustainability and Responsibility reporting example](#)

FUNDING

- [WCS Climate Adaptation Fund](#)
- [Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Activities](#)
- [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#)
- [NRCS Conservation Innovation Grants](#)
- [BIOFIN Mexico](#)
- [Regenerative Fund Combines Forests, Farming and Carbon Removal](#)
- [Quantified Ventures State Revolving Funds](#)

INDIGENOUS-LED CONSERVATION AND TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

- [UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous People](#)
- [BC Declaration on Rights of Indigenous peoples act](#)
- [South Okanogan National Park](#)
- [Webinar Series: Incorporating Indigenous Knowledges into Federal Research and Management](#)
- [National Indian Carbon Coalition](#)

INDIGENOUS-LED CONSERVATION AND TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE (CONTINUED)

- [Weaving Indigenous and Western ways of knowing can help Canada achieve its biodiversity goals](#)
- [Indigenous Engagement Institute](#)
- [Exploring Ethical Space- Y2Y](#)
- [Webinar: Flowing across boundaries: A story of Indigenous-led collaboration among nations to protect salmon and Indigenous culture in the Wolastog](#)
- [Indigenous Peoples' Rights in Data: A Contribution Towards Indigenous Research Sovereignty](#)
- [Global impacts of extractive and industrial development projects on Indigenous Peoples' lifeways, lands and rights.](#)
- [Centering Equity in the Nation's Weather, Water and Climate Services](#)
- [Native Nations Institute - University of Arizona](#)
- [Indigenous Land & Stewardship Lab - Colorado State University](#)
- [Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals - Northern Arizona University](#)

CASE STUDIES AND TOOLS FOR IMPLEMENTING CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY SOLUTIONS

- [First Nations Great Bear Rainforest project](#)
- [America the Beautiful for All Coalition 2023 Policy Agenda](#)
- [Grades of Heat mapping tool for HOLCs](#)
- [Climate Safe Neighborhoods- Groundwork USA](#)
- [Fourth National Climate Assessment- Built environment, Urban systems, and Cities](#)
- [Your Environment is Changing StoryMap- CEC](#)

CASE STUDIES AND TOOLS FOR IMPLEMENTING CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY SOLUTIONS (CONTINUED)

- [Protected areas as natural solutions to climate change guide- more case studies in here- NAWPA](#)
- [Climate Action Reserve newsletter](#)
- [TRCP Nature-Based Solutions guide](#)

MISCELLANEOUS STORYTELLING AND NARRATIVES

- [A Nation of Immigrants- JFK](#)
- [In Search of the Canary Tree](#) by Lauren Oakes
- [Carbon Cowboys](#)
- [Stop Trying to Save the World](#)

The 2023 Symposium session recordings, pictures, agenda, graphic recordings, and more are available on the [Salazar Center's website](#).



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