

# ESP 11 World Conference

## “From global to local ecosystem services: pathways to Nature-based Solutions inspired from Down Under”

23-27 June 2025 | Darwin, Australia

### SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: T16

Incentivizing investment for nature-based solutions in protected areas

Hosts:

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Abstract:

Nature-based solutions (NbS) within Protected Areas (PAs) present transformative pathways to address global climate challenges, conserve biodiversity, and invigorate economic systems. Achieving their full potential, however, demands strategic investments to close funding gaps and incentivize global stakeholders to prioritize conservation. This session will delve into innovative mechanisms and financing models that harmonize ecological imperatives with economic incentives, emphasizing the vital role of PAs in generating substantial ecological and economic gains.

Global experiences vividly demonstrate the transformative power of NbS in reshaping both landscapes and livelihoods. For instance, watershed management in the tundra and mountain biomes has slashed annual flood damages by 10 percent. Similarly, a mountain restoration initiative in Gilgit-Baltistan has not only enhanced water security for downstream communities but also fostered biodiversity and boosted sustainable tourism. These projects exemplify how NbS delivers multifaceted benefits, offering a blueprint for integrating ecological restoration with economic resilience. In the Asia-Pacific, mangrove restoration efforts, such as Indonesia's project in Demak and India's Sundarbans, showcase transformative results. Indonesia's mangrove restoration in Demak has mitigated storm surges by up to 31 percent while supporting fisheries-based economic gains. Likewise, the Sundarbans' mangrove forests provide critical storm protection valued at \$12 billion annually (WWF Report 2014), underpinning millions of livelihoods and enriching biodiversity.

Innovative ecological markets, such as Rhino Bonds, underline how NbS can transition into scalable, market-driven solutions. Rhino Bonds incentivize wildlife conservation by linking the protection of rhino populations

with tangible economic returns, bridging the gap between ecological priorities and financial rewards. Such initiatives illustrate the power of NbS to foster sustainable development while advancing ecological markets.

Investments in NbS are yielding tangible impacts. Restored mangroves and forests enhance water retention, buffer climate impacts, generate carbon credits, and elevate ecological services. According to the US Chamber of Commerce, every \$1 invested in NbS generates \$4–7 in economic and ecological returns, underscoring the enduring value of these solutions for both communities and ecosystems.

### Goals and objectives of the session:

Goals

Objectives:

- Share Knowledge: Showcase transformative global success stories and cutting-edge evidence demonstrating the dual ecological and economic benefits of NbS implementation within protected areas.
- Highlight Financing Innovations: Explore groundbreaking frameworks that leverage cutting-edge economic tools like Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), carbon credits, and blended finance to drive transformative change.

Goals : to generate an understanding about value of investment protected areas through their contribution in the form of varied ecosystem services, thereby transforming the classical in economic system

i objectives of the session: Foster Collaboration: Cultivate dynamic partnerships among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to amplify and adapt successful NbS models across varied geographies and climatic conditions.

### Planned output / Deliverables:

- Catalyzing Action: Equip participants with actionable strategies to advance NbS implementation within protected areas globally.
- Innovative Solutions: Identify and disseminate novel approaches and successful financial models to scale NbS.
- Strengthening Networks: Foster a global community of researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to share expertise and resources.
- Demonstrating Impact: Highlight the ecological, economic, and social benefits of NbS investments, with a focus on tiger conservation and community resilience.

### Session format:

Storytelling session beginning with keynote address, followed by invited paper presentations in a story form, followed by a panel discussion

### Voluntary contributions accepted:

Yes, I allow any abstract to be submitted to my session for review

### Related to ESP Working Group:

[TWG 16 – ES Financing mechanisms \(incl. PES\)](#)