

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: R4

Does a single swallow attract the storm? Community conservation initiatives in the Global South

Hosts:

	Name	Organisation	E-mail
Host:	Albaluz Ramos-Franco	Young Ecosystem Services Specialist Network YESS - Juan de Castellanos University Colombia	aramosf@jdc.edu.co
Co-host(s):	Diana Sofía López-Cubillos	University of Melbourne	d.lopezcubillos@uq.edu.au

Abstract:

This session will explore the transformative role of local, rural, and indigenous-led conservation initiatives across the Global South in addressing global environmental challenges. While large-scale policies and international agreements often dominate discussions on biodiversity and ecosystem services, local communities are frequently at the forefront of on-the-ground efforts to safeguard natural resources. This session will bring together researchers and practitioners to highlight how these grassroots efforts are contributing to nature-based solutions, often in highly biodiverse yet vulnerable regions.

Through a series of case studies, we will examine the measurable ecological and socio-economic impacts that community-driven conservation efforts are generating. From preserving indigenous knowledge to enhancing biodiversity and fostering sustainable livelihoods, these initiatives offer powerful examples of how local action can ripple into broader regional and even global outcomes. We will also explore the challenges these communities face, including land tenure conflicts, limited access to resources, and the increasing pressures of climate change.

By sharing successes, lessons learned, and ongoing challenges, this session aims to elevate the importance of integrating local conservation efforts into global environmental strategies. Are these initiatives enough to spark larger-scale transformations, or do they risk being isolated examples of success in an otherwise stormy global landscape? Join us to discuss how the power of collective community action could reshape the pathways to nature-based solutions, inspired from the unique context of the Global South.

Goals and objectives of the session:

– To showcase the ecological and socio-economic impacts of local, rural, and indigenous-led conservation initiatives in the Global South, highlighting their contributions to biodiversity conservation and nature-based solutions at regional and global scales.

– To facilitate knowledge exchange between researchers, practitioners, and community leaders by sharing successful case studies, challenges faced, and best practices in community-driven conservation efforts.

– To explore the potential of scaling up local conservation initiatives and integrating them into broader environmental policy frameworks, examining how grassroots actions can influence national and international conservation strategies.

Planned output / Deliverables:

Memories of the presentations and summary document with the final discussions of the session.

Session format:

Standard session format with a duration of 4–5 hours, divided into two rounds, with presentations of a maximum of 15 minutes and 5 for questions. Closing discussion of no more than 30 minutes.

Voluntary contributions accepted:

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

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