



SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: S6

Integrated capitals thinking to promote a sustainable and healthy agriculture & food sector

Hosts:

	Title	Name	Organisation	E-mail
Host:		Martine Van Weelden	Capitals Coalition	martine.vanweelden@capitalscoalition.org
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Abstract:

The ways in which the global food system depends on the health of natural ecosystems is clear. It's also clear that the current degradation of natural systems impacts not only on agri-businesses, but also on workers, local communities, food security, public health, the economy and the climate. Positive interventions in the food system therefore have the ability to generate benefits that cascade through nature, society and the economy.

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Agriculture and Food (TEEBAgriFood) initiative brings together scientists, economists, policymakers, business leaders and farmers organizations to undertake and apply holistic assessments of agricultural systems, practices, products and policies.

As part of the UNEP TEEBAgriFood project, generously supported by the EU, the Capitals Coalition works on engaging businesses to support the food system transformation. Currently the project focuses on seven partner countries: Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico and Thailand until the end of 2022. The Capitals Coalition aims to expand the project to other regions too.

Through its work, the initiative highlights the need for organisations in the food system to better understand their impacts and dependencies on natural, social and human capital, and provides them with the guidance to apply this information in their decisions in ways that deliver benefits across the system.

Next to the TEEBAgriFood project, the Capitals Coalition is setting up a Business Working Group on natural capital and supports the organisation of the IUCN webinar series: "Natural Capital



and Civil Society in Eastern and Southern Africa: building capacity to move from theory to practice with local communities and SMEs”. We would like to link the ESP session to the Business Working Group and webinar series with the aim of bringing the business perspective into the scientific community of ESP and learning from the latest scientific insights on food and ecosystem services to build the case for the TEEB AgriFood project roll out in Africa.

Goals and objectives of the session:

This session aims to bring business representatives, scientists, and other stakeholders together to discuss food system transformation in Africa to gain scientific insights on potential solutions, and explores the role the TEEB AgriFood project could play as part of the transformation in Africa:

- Providing insight in the TEEB AgriFood project and the TEEB AgriFood Operational Guidelines for Business;
- Gaining insights in the relation between ecosystem services, natural capital and food system issues related to the African context;
- Building collaboration between the business and scientific community as part of the initiatives of the ESP Sectoral Working Group 6– ES in Business.

Planned output / Deliverables:

With the insight gained through this session the Capitals Coalition will assess how the TEEB AgriFood project could best be applied within an African context and set the scene for future work.

Voluntary contributions accepted:

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

Related to ESP Working Group/National Network:

[Sectoral Working Groups: SWG 6 – ES in Business](#)