

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: T2c

The IPBES Nexus Assessment: Bridging Single-Issue Silos through Integrated & Adaptive Decision-Making

Hosts:

	Name	Organisation	E-mail
Host:	Edmundo Barrios	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	edmundo.barrios@fao.org
Co-host(s):	Prof. Paula Harrison	UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology	PaulaHarrison@ceh.ac.uk
	Prof. Pam McElwee	Rutgers University	pamela.mcelwee@rutgers.edu

Abstract:

The global environmental crises related to biodiversity, water, food, health and climate change have most often been addressed individually, by separate processes (e.g., separate international conventions or siloed national agencies/authorities). Actions to address one crisis, such as climate change, have often exacerbated the negative consequences of the other crises, particularly with regards to biodiversity. A large body of scientific knowledge on each of these crises exists – but there has never been a critical global synthesis on the interlinkages between these crises before.

Building on the work published by IPBES over the last decade, the Nexus Report provides

an overview of the current interlinkages and interactions among the five nexus elements (biodiversity, water, food, health and climate change), exploring who is most affected, most at risk and benefiting most from these interactions. It also provides concrete estimates of the economic costs of failing to act and of addressing the nexus elements individually rather than together.

The Nexus Report explores feasible future nexus interactions, projecting scenarios up to 2050, but also considering horizons up to 2100 to better understand the longer-term challenges and opportunities for action within and across the five nexus elements. It also presents a wide variety of response options for integrated policy and action that will benefit multiple nexus elements simultaneously. Furthermore, it focuses on governance that would be fit for the purpose of achieving just and sustainable futures, offering a roadmap for ‘nexus governance’.

Goals and objectives of the session:

This session provides an opportunity for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to engage with innovative strategies for governing and managing the nexus elements in ways that benefit society and the environment.

The Nexus Report comprises seven chapters, which provide the scientific basis for the key messages of the report. The chapter presentations will provide:

1. An introduction to the nexus, outlining the framework and policy relevance of the assessment, defining nexus elements and their interdependencies.
2. Past and current trends in biodiversity's interactions with water, food, health and climate change, evaluating environmental, social and economic impacts.
3. Future projections of interactions between the nexus elements, analyzing key drivers aligned with policy targets.
4. Policy and sociopolitical options across the nexus that could facilitate and accelerate the transition to a range of sustainable futures.
5. Response options available within each of the nexus elements for delivering nexus-wide benefits.
6. Options for delivering sustainable approaches to public and private finance for biodiversity-related elements of the nexus.
7. A summary and synthesis of options, knowledge and technology gaps, and capacity development and a roadmap for holistic approaches to decision-making.

Planned output / Deliverables:

- Provide decision-makers, including policymakers and a large diversity of stakeholders, with the best-available evidence, analysis and options about the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health in the context of climate change.
- Inform more integrated decisions and actions to simultaneously achieve the SDGs, the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement.
- Recognize and emphasize the role different actors have in addressing global challenges.

Session format:

Standard 90 minutes session: 3min introd/ 7 x 10 min presentations / 12 min Q&A

Voluntary contributions accepted:

No, I only want to include abstracts from my own invited speakers

Related to ESP Working Group:

TWG 2 – Biodiversity & Ecosystem services