

Global Development Conference on

Biodiversity

and

Sustainable Development



OCTOBER 31 – NOVEMBER 1, 2023 | QUITO, ECUADOR

CALL FOR SESSIONS

The 2023 Global Development Conference will be held in **Quito, Ecuador**, on **October 31 and November 1, 2023**, organized in partnership with [Universidad San Francisco de Quito](#) and [Future Earth](#), and will focus on **Biodiversity and Sustainable Development**.

The conference is supported by the *Agence Française de Développement (AFD)*, and the **French Ministry of Economy, Finance and Recovery** and will be held in hybrid format (online and offline) to allow for wider participation, while aiming still for a large contingent to attend in-person. The conference will be bilingual - **English** and **Spanish**, with most participants from Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs).

The Global Development Conference will feature substantive and inclusive discussions at the highest level of expertise, grounded in empirical evidence and focused on the interrelated topics of **mainstreaming biodiversity, financing nature and biodiversity, and technology and innovation that intersect with biodiversity and ecosystem preservation**. The conference is known for its ability to bring together global perspectives on critical issues, which have so far been largely restricted to high-income nations. Through such discussions, the aim is to enhance cooperation and knowledge-sharing among all stakeholders, while also providing a glimpse into the latest advancements and techniques at the intersection of biodiversity and development.

The Organizing Committee is inviting submissions of innovative sessions that explore the diverse connections between biodiversity and development. The world is facing

unprecedented degradation of nature and biodiversity loss, which poses a threat to health, food, water, disaster prevention, economic development, and climate change. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services raised the alarm that humanity is facing the highest extinction rate in history, with 1 million animal and plant species currently threatened with extinction. More than half of the world's GDP is moderately or highly dependent on nature, and degrading ecosystems could trigger a downward spiral of US\$ 2.7 trillion in global GDP by 2030.

Biodiversity and development are two interrelated themes that transcend disciplinary and sectoral boundaries. Additionally, the debate will center on the application of biodiversity policies, and we **welcome perspectives from researchers in a variety of fields, including ecology, biology, economics, and social sciences.** The discussion of this topic should be further expanded beyond the current scope, and an organization such as GDN and its conference partners are ideally positioned to facilitate this wider discourse. Additionally, capacity building is imperative in this field, particularly in LMICs which are most vulnerable to the adverse effects of environmental degradation and biodiversity loss.

THEMATIC STREAMS

Biodiversity and Sustainable Development Conference 2023



More information about the theme (and streams) can be found in the conference concept note on the [GDN website](#).

Guidelines and Selection

Those interested should submit the title and abstract of their session (between 300-800 words) by **July 30, 2023, 11:59 PM CET** [here](#).

The names and affiliations of the panelists along with a **brief biographical note** must be included, as well as the individual titles of their presentations (if known and applicable). The format of the **90-minute session** is flexible and at the discretion of the organizers.

Session proposals will be selected by the conference Organizing Committee based on their **relevance** and **quality**, and their **potential** to generate **meaningful debates** during the conference. The selection process will be guided by the following criteria:

- Expected contributions to one or several of the themes introduced above
- Policy salience
- Academic content
- Innovation in proposed approaches
- Expertise of the panelists
- Diversity

Sessions including multidisciplinary or multi-sectoral perspectives are particularly welcome.

The selected session proposals will be featured during the parallel sessions of the conference and the organizers acknowledged in the program, banners and all other relevant conference communication. There is a **management fee of US\$ 4000 for booking a session at the conference, payable to the organizers once the session plan is accepted.**

Please note that this fee does not include travel and accommodation costs for the panelists.

For any queries or concerns, the conference secretariat can be contacted via email at conference@gdn.int.

GDN encourages gender-balanced and diverse panels.

(Additional) Conference Sponsorship modalities

