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

1 Alternative, nature-based solutions for sustainability challenges (including perspectives from indigenous people)

2 Ecosystem valuation (methodological approaches), political commitments, implementation of the new GBF

3 Mainstreaming biodiversity and scaling up mainstreaming

4 Biodiversity loss, poverty and global inequality – links and trade-offs

5 Financing nature and biodiversity – domestic, international, private sector

6 Biodiversity governance – local and international

7 Technology and Innovation – links to biodiversity and ecosystem preservation

8 Interdisciplinary research and capacity building – including diverse knowledge systems

More information about the theme (and streams) can be found in the conference concept note available on the conference website which can be found here.

Guidelines and Selection

Those interested should submit the title and abstract of their session (between

300-800 words) by **July 31, 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.

(Additional) Conference Sponsorship modalities

PLATINUM SPONSOR US$40,000

- One guaranteed parallel session in the program.
- Organization name on the conference website.
- Acknowledgement at opening and closing plenaries and on social media.
- A physical and virtual booth at the Expo.
- A slot on one of the plenary sessions at no further charge (if desired).

GOLD SPONSOR US$15,000

- One guaranteed parallel session in the program.
- Organization name on the conference website.
- Acknowledgement at opening and closing plenaries and on GDN's social media platforms.
- A physical and virtual booth at the Expo.

WE SEEK

CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP

AT MULTIPLE LEVELS

SESSION SPONSOR US$4,000

- Organization name listed alongside the sponsored session.
- Space at the virtual Expo.
- One parallel session in the program (subject to acceptance).

TRAVEL GRANT SPONSOR

For LMIC researchers selected to present at the conference. No set amount.

PHOTO CONTEST SPONSOR US$10,000

- Organization name across contest branding and advertising.
- A physical and virtual booth at the Expo.
- Acknowledgement at opening and closing plenaries and on GDN's social media platforms.
- Other sponsorship options available.