Global Development Conference on
Biodiversity
and
Sustainable Development

OCTOBER 31 – NOVEMBER 1, 2023 | **QUITO, ECUADOR**

CALL FOR SESSIONS

In 2023, the **Global Development Conference** will focus on **Biodiversity and Sustainable Development**. The **Global Development Network (GDN), Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ)** and **Future Earth** are collaborating to host this conference in **Quito, Ecuador on October 31** and **November 1, 2023**. The event will be held in hybrid format (online and offline) to allow for broader participation while aiming still for a large contingent to attend in person. The conference will be bilingual - **English** and **Spanish**, with a majority of participants from developing countries.

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 developed 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 of the Global Development Conference 2023 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 (IPBES) 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 low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) which are most vulnerable to the adverse effects of biodiversity degradation.

Conference sub-themes

The conference proposes to address the following thematic streams:

1. Alternative, nature-based solutions for sustainability challenges (including perspectives from indigenous people)
2. From ecosystem valuation (methodological approaches) and political commitments to 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

Detailed descriptions of broader thematic issues including a concept note and more information on the conference can be found here.

Guidelines and Selection

Those interested should submit the title and **abstract of their session** (between **300-800 words**) by **June 30, 2023**, **11:59 PM CET** through here on the GDN

[conference page](). The names and affiliations of the panelists along with a **brief biographical note** should also be included, as well as, the individual titles of their presentations (if known). 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 on the basis of 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 panellists
- 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.