



Policy Instruments to Facilitate Natural Capital Investment



19 March 2024

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., Manila time (GMT+8)

Hybrid | Rm 6B623 ADB HQ, Manila, Philippines

Register via [Zoom](#)

Background

Asia and the Pacific's unparalleled, rich biodiversity has been an important driver of the region's rapid economic growth during the past three decades. The region contributed 70% of the growth in global gross domestic product (GDP) from 2013–2023, with growth in GDP per capita being highest in Asia. Economic growth in the region is expected to continue at a significant rate, but its development prospects and the future of 60% of the world's population (4.3 billion) are at risk due to the rapid depletion of its natural capital and degradation of the ecosystem services provided to people.

It is also one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change. Nature loss can intensify the region's vulnerability to climate change impacts and exacerbate food insecurity. The rural poor who rely on nature for sustenance, income, and adaptation to climate change will be most affected by nature loss. Significant investments in restoring, protecting, and sustainably managing natural capital and its ecosystem services are needed. Annual financing of nature-based solutions will have to almost triple to \$542 billion by 2030 and quadruple to \$737 billion by 2050 to address the global financing gap in achieving the Rio climate, biodiversity, and land degradation targets. Coherent policies on sustainability and financing are key to redirecting and unlocking investments in nature.

The climate-food-nature nexus highlights the interconnected relationship between climate change, food systems, and the natural environment. To address these challenges, it is important to embed nature in investment and policy decisions. This can be done by valuing ecosystem services, investing in nature-based solutions, promoting sustainable agriculture practices, enhancing climate-smart food systems, mainstreaming nature in policy frameworks, and fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

Natural capital investments with appropriate policies provide the necessary guidelines and regulations to align environmental investments with sustainability goals. With the right policies in place, investments are guided towards environmentally responsible practices and foster positive outcomes that are key to achieving the overall goals of protecting and growing nature while also achieving economic and social prosperity.

Natural Capital Webinar Series

Natural Capital Lab, Asian Development Bank

Stanford University's Natural Capital Project

Contact naturalcapital@adb.org. Visit [ADB Events](#) for further information.

Objectives

The webinar aims to:

- Enhance the understanding of policy instruments to promote natural capital protection and growth (e.g., regenerative agriculture, reforestation programs, sustainable water management projects, and biodiversity conservation efforts);
- Raise awareness about the importance of appropriate policies to support natural capital growth and advocate for collective action; and
- Share case studies, experiences, and lessons learned from successful initiatives on the effective use of policies in natural capital.

Participants

The webinar invites representatives from the following organizations engaged in agriculture, natural resources, and rural development:

- government and intergovernmental organizations
- multilateral and bilateral development institutions
- private firms engaged in the agriculture and food business
- research and development institutions, think tanks, and centers of excellence
- NGOs, civil society and advocacy organizations, other individuals and organizations interested and/or engaged in agriculture and natural resources.

Speaker



Stephen Polasky, Regents Professor and Fesler-Lampert Professor of Ecological/Environmental Economics, University of Minnesota

Stephen Polasky is Regents Professor and Fesler-Lampert Professor of Ecological/Environmental Economics at the University of Minnesota. His research focuses on issues at the intersection of ecology and economics including the value of ecosystem services and natural capital, biodiversity conservation, land use, sustainability, common property resources, and environmental regulation. He is a co-founder of the Natural Capital Project.

He served as Senior Staff Economist for environment and resources for the President's Council of Economic Advisers 1998-1999. He is co-chair of the Biodiversity and Business Assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and previously served as a coordinating lead author on nature's contributions to people for the IPBES Global Assessment. He has served on the Board of Directors for The Nature Conservancy, the Science Advisory Boards of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Sustainability External Advisory Committee of Dow Chemical Company. He received a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan and a B.A. from Williams College.

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Program

<p>Moderator: Narayan Iyer, Senior Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist (Agribusiness), Agriculture, Food, Nature and Rural Development Sector Office, Sectors Group (SG-AFNR)</p>	
09:00 a.m. – 09:05 a.m.	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narayan Iyer, Senior Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist (Agribusiness), SG-AFNR, ADB
09:05 a.m. – 09:15 a.m.	<p>Welcome Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qingfeng Zhang, Senior Director, SG-AFNR, ADB • Mary Ruckelshaus, Executive Director, The Natural Capital Project and Senior Research Associate, Stanford University
09:15 a.m. – 09:35 a.m.	<p>Policy Options to Facilitate Natural Capital Investment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen Polasky, Regents Professor and Fesler-Lampert Professor of Ecological/Environmental Economics, University of Minnesota
09:35 a.m. – 09:55 a.m.	<p>Open Discussion</p>
09:55 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yoko Watanabe, Director, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, ADB

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