



2024 RESILIENCE LEARNING MONTH EVENT SUMMARY



A Deeper Dive into the *Playbook for Nature-Positive Infrastructure Development*

26 September 2024 (Thursday)
2-3 p.m. Manila Time (GMT+8)
ADB kHub



Nature-positive infrastructure meets development needs in a sustainable manner. River weirs, which are an important part of irrigation systems, can be built with features that make them friendly to aquatic life, maintaining the ecosystem, and allowing for movement and migration of fish, such as this example in Lao PDR (photo by ADB).

The *Playbook for Nature-Positive Infrastructure Development* is a strategic guide jointly developed by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Federation Internationale des Ingenieurs-Conseils/International or Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC), and AECOM, a leading global consulting engineering firm. Introduced to an ADB audience earlier in 2024, this session aimed to go beyond an introduction and dig deeper into how nature-positive infrastructure could be developed and implemented with a detailed look at external projects. The main speaker for the session was Michel Oosterwegel, Environmental Manager for the construction firm Boskalis, a firm known for its effort and commitment to utilize nature-positive infrastructure in a number of its projects both in developing Asia and in the rest of the world. Boskalis is a member of Ecoshape, a network of organizations and individuals with the goal of advancing the implementation of nature-based solutions.

Traditionally, infrastructure projects have focused on minimizing negative impacts. However, I believe we are now moving to a new phase where we should not only be thinking about reducing negative impacts but to actively supporting and restoring ecosystems.

SINA VELIOGLU
Senior Procurement Specialist, PPFD, ADB

SPEAKERS



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Senior Procurement Specialist
Procurement, Portfolio, and Financial
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MICHEL OOSTERWEGEL
Environmental Manager
Boskalis

MODERATOR



MELODY OVENDEN

Senior Environment Specialist
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KEY MESSAGES

The way to stable development that addresses poverty and economic disparity is through embedding environmental sustainability into public infrastructure.

Despite the interest shown in nature-based solutions, actual uptake is limited basically due to concerns about feasibility and effectiveness from ADB's DMCs. This means that ADB should think more deeply on integrating these elements into our projects in a better way and address provisions in our project designs for their practical implementation.

Careful thinking is needed in contracting and procuring nature-positive systems, and doing so correctly ensures good implementation.

Contractors have seen firsthand how clients find it often difficult to implement nature-based solutions based on the uncertainties of future success, but in their experience the biggest challenge is that project solutions are always designed for one single function, whereas we really need to move toward multi-function solutions.

The best nature-based solutions are dynamic and part of a dynamic process that involves a multi-party approach of early stakeholder engagement, the client, the consultants, and the contractor, all of whom can look at a project and offer their own input on integrating nature-based solutions instead of just treating these later as add-on, or worse, acting as separate entities that do not have an integrated view of a project's sustainability goals.

Nature-based solutions need to be local and context specific, which means that project design really needs to understand the ecological, social, and economic context. This should be coupled with an adaptive management cycle that monitors the project development process and can quickly adjust any design aspects.

ADB's new ways of working under the New Operating Model offers opportunities to do things differently, such as collaborative procurement and early contractor involvement.

As ADB's DMCs have signed up to global commitments on the environment and climate change, we can align nature-positive projects with these to increase uptake and client willingness.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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Playbook for Nature-Positive Infrastructure Development