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Event Title: Peatlands and Wetlands as Strategic Assets: Financing Resilience, Security and the Next Generation of Nature Markets
MDB: European Investment Bank (EIB)
Sector or Theme of the Event: Nature Markets and Credits
Date: 23 October 2026
Time: 15:00-16:15

Session Description:

Peatlands and Wetlands as Strategic Assets: Financing Resilience, Security and the Next Generation of Nature Markets

Peatlands and wetlands are among the world's most valuable natural assets, underpinning climate resilience, water security, biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods. Yet despite their critical contribution to resilient economies and communities, they remain significantly underfinanced. Building on the momentum generated by recent international initiatives, including the launch of the report on financing European peatlands, this side event will explore how public and private finance can be mobilised at scale to conserve, restore and sustainably manage these ecosystems.

Bringing together governments, multilateral development banks, investors, project developers and nature market practitioners, the discussion will focus on practical pathways to transform peatland and wetland restoration into investable opportunities capable of delivering measurable climate, biodiversity, water and socio-economic benefits. Speakers will examine emerging financing solutions, including blended finance, results-based mechanisms, nature credits and other innovative approaches that can help build robust revenue models and unlock investment.

Against the backdrop of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and growing global commitments on resilience and adaptation, the session will explore how peatlands and wetlands can become strategic investment platforms that strengthen economic resilience, reduce nature-related risks and support long-term sustainable development. It will highlight lessons from European and international experience, identify key barriers to scaling finance and discuss the enabling conditions, standards and partnerships needed to develop a pipeline of high-integrity, bankable projects.

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The event aims to foster collaboration across the public and private sectors and advance a shared agenda for positioning peatlands and wetlands at the heart of nature finance, climate resilience and sustainable growth strategies.

Session Organizer:	Eva Mayerhofer (EIB)
Session Moderator:	Eva Mayerhofer (EIB)

Program Flow

Time	Activity Description	Speaker	Onsite/Virtual
15:00-15:10	Welcome and Opening remarks	Eva Mayerhofer, HoU and Lead Biodiversity Specialist, EIB	onsite
15:10-15:25	Opening Statement	Gilles Doignon, Team Leader Biodiversity & Nature-Based Solutions, DG Research & Innovation, EC	online
15:25-16:05	Panel Discussion 2 rounds of questions - answers around 4mns Closing question 1mn response	• Coenraad Krijger, CEO Wetlands International • Shane McGuiness, Assistant Professor at UCD and Founder of Peatland Ireland Finance • Hanna FiegenBaum, ecological economist, expert to the EC • Duncan Lang, Senior Environment Specialist, ADB	Onsite Online Onsite Onsite
16:05-16:10	Q&A		
16:10-16:15	Closing Remarks	Eva Mayerhofer, HoU and Lead Biodiversity Specialist, EIB	Onsite

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Speaker Profiles

Gilles Doignon *Team Leader Biodiversity & Nature-Based Solutions,* DG Research & Innovation



Gilles Doignon is a marine zoologist from Belgium. After his research career on symbioses, he worked on fisheries, aquaculture and freshwater issues at the Walloon Region and Oceana, then became the first global seafood leader for WWF. He joined the European Commission in 2008. He spent 10 years at DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and was the communication coordinator for the 4th Our Ocean conference hosted by the EU. He joined DG Environment in 2018 and was the coordinator of the Global Coalition "United for Biodiversity" ahead of COP15. In April 2022, he was appointed Team Leader biodiversity and nature-based solutions at DG Research and Innovation. He is EU focal point at the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and at the Global Taxonomy Initiative, he is also negotiator at the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Coenraad Krijger *CEO*, Wetlands International

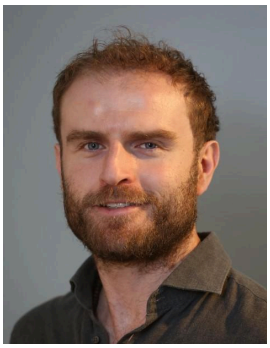


Coenraad Krijger has served as CEO of Wetlands International since March 2025. From 2016–2025, he was Director of IUCN NL, guiding the organization's activities in the Netherlands, Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Before that, he spent 20 years in scientific research and science and innovation policy, including 15 years at the Dutch Research Council (NWO).

He holds an MSc in ecology from Wageningen University and a PhD from Leiden University. He also serves on the Supervisory Board of PWN, a Dutch water and nature management organisation.

Shane McGuiness *Assistant Professor* at UCD and *Founder* of Peatland Ireland Finance



Dr Shane Mc Guinness is Assistant Professor in Sustainability and Climate Fellow in University College Dublin. His work focuses on nature finance, human-wildlife conflict and wetland restoration across Europe. He is a member of the European Commission's Expert Working Group on Nature Credits, the Biodiversa+ Knowledge Hub, a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and is a coordinator of the WaterLANDS project, a multi-million euro Horizon-funded project. In 2023, Dr Mc Guinness founded Peatland Finance Ireland (PFI), an Irish not-for profit company centred on mobilising blended finance for peatland restoration. As part of this, PFI has designed and launched the Peatland Standard, a multi-credit bundled ecosystem certificate which offers certified returns on emissions reductions, volumetric water benefit, biodiversity, flood risk reduction and fire reduction, along with myriad qualitative elements of added value. Using this, PFI has attracted significant investment from large tech companies in combination with core support from numerous government departments. PFI's methodology is now on track to be one of the first certified systems in Ireland under the EU's Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming regulation (CRCF) and continues to provide a valuable template for policy at EU level.

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Hanna FiegenBaum, *Ecological economist*, Expert to the European Commision

She works at the intersection of sustainable business and finance, environmental markets and nature-related decision-making. As an external expert for the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, she provides policy support for the Roadmap towards Nature Credits, including their integration into EU sustainable finance policy. She is also an affiliated researcher at Leipzig University. Her work explores how sustainable financial infrastructure for nature can look like and develop in different regional contexts. This includes the role of environmental markets and thematic instruments such as nature credits within the wider context of regional financial systems, in making nature action measurable and investable as a distinct use-of-proceeds category, informing financing and capital allocation decisions, and combining nature-related revenues with other revenue streams.

Duncan Lang *Senior Environment Specialist,* ADB



Duncan Lang is part of ADB's Environment Cluster within the Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department. Duncan is ADB's lead for the Regional Flyway Initiative (RFI) which covers the East Asian-Australasian Flyway and aims to mobilize $3 billion for protection and sustainable management of wetlands over the next ten years.

He led the biodiversity component of the recently approved Environmental and Social Framework, was the technical lead for the team that recently launched ADB's inaugural Biodiversity and Nature Theme Bond. Duncan also led ADB's support for the development of the Avian Sensitivity Tool for Energy Planning (AVISTEP) and he is also ADB's focal for Sustainability Reporting. Duncan joined ADB in 2017 and has worked in the environment sector for over 20 years. Duncan has a wide variety of experience across a range of sectors as well as having a specialism in biodiversity.

Eva Mayerhofer *Head of the Sustainability & Climate Office Implementation Unit*, EIB



Eva Mayerhofer is the Head of the Sustainability and Climate Policy Implementation Unit and Biodiversity Lead of the European Investment Bank. She manages the team responsible for the Bank's environmental, climate and social safeguards, the green & gender attribution of projects and the development of the biodiversity and nature agenda including developing business models and financing instruments to support nature-positive investments and drive natural capital transformation. Prior to joining the EIB she was an environment specialist at the Asian Development Bank. She has over 20 years of experience in environmental impact assessment, natural resource management and biodiversity conservation and has worked extensively across Europe, Asia, the Pacific and Africa with various development agencies and projects.

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