SESSION AGENDA (as of 28 October)

Nature Finance Taxonomy: A Discussion Towards a Common Understanding and Scaling Impact

A side event organized by the Asian Development Bank through the Nature Solutions Finance Hub

MDB Pavilion, Yerevan, Armenia • 28 October 2026, 17:00–18:15 (GMT +4)

1. Background and Context

While global commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) call for accelerated and consolidated efforts to halt and reverse nature loss, the global biodiversity finance gap now stands at about $1.317 trillion annually, as per the Paulson Institute and BloombergNEF. There is, therefore, an urgent need for greater clarity and coherence in understanding the common principles of nature investment to advance and accelerate impact. Recent advancement in the development of climate finance taxonomies, climate metrics, and Paris Alignment principles has resulted in increased targets and private sector mobilization over the years.

Multilateral development bank (MDBs) and international financing institutions (IFIs) are uniquely positioned to work as a catalyst in this transformation by embedding biodiversity outcomes into operations and investment decisions.

This roundtable session aims to convene MDBs, IFIs, policymakers, technical experts, and finance institutions to advance a common understanding of nature finance taxonomy and how it can enhance and guide nature-positive and net-zero investment. It will also focus on lessons and examples from MDBs and IFIs, as well as the private sector.

By bridging technical definitions with operational pathways, the roundtable aims to be a platform for productive discussion that can support development and adoption of common principles in nature finance. The outcome aims to engage MDBs, IFIs, private sector, and think tanks in a public discussion to scale up nature finance.

2. Why This Event, Why Now

With various organizations, groups, and institutions working in silos to support the KMGBF and close the gap on nature, the 17th Meeting Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP17) is a key platform to gather and engage in meaningful discussions around the foundations needed to support enhanced nature investment across the world. With MDBs having launched their common principles for Nature Finance Taxonomy at CBD COP16, this session builds the discussion and dialogue on emerging nature finance taxonomies and its implementation across various sectors and stakeholders.

The panel will address three important questions:

(i) the importance of nature taxonomies in investment planning and development;
(ii) how MDBs/IFIs and the private sector are developing and implementing nature finance in their portfolio and operations and leveraging existing common approaches for climate and nature; and
(iii) how do taxonomies support and translate to nature-positive investments, from taxonomies to investments?

3. Objectives

- Leverage lessons from MDBs and IFIs to accelerate private sector mobilization for biodiversity.
- Discuss taxonomy frameworks and how it is used to guide investment decisions.
- Explore how climate frameworks can be leveraged for nature integration.
- Showcase examples on how MDBs, IFIs, and members of the private sector mainstream nature considerations in portfolios and operations.

4. Target Audience

Central banks; relevant environment ministries; ministries of finance; MDBs and development partners; financial institutions; sustainable finance practitioners; and, technical and research organizations.

5. Agenda

Note: The session will be livestreamed through the DevAsia YouTube channel.

TIME	SEGMENT AND SPEAKERS
17:00–17:10	Welcome Remarks **Yoko Watanabe**, Director, Nature and Environment, Asian Development Bank (ADB)
17:10–17:15	Opening Remarks and Session Moderator **Ignacio Lorenzo Arana**, Director of Technical Advisory on Biodiversity and Climate, Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF)
17:15–17:22	Presentation: Developing Net-Zero Nature-Positive Guidelines for Stakeholders **Costanza Strinati**, Manager, Climate Policy Initiative Overview of how taxonomies can accelerate net-zero nature-positive guidelines into investment pipelines, also sharing lessons and practical pathways
17:22–18:02	Roundtable Discussion: Global Nature Taxonomy Panelists: 1. **Vanessa Callau**, Biodiversity and Natural Capital Sector Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)



TIME	SEGMENT AND SPEAKERS
	2. **Aurélia Blin**, Land Lead for the Revenues for Nature Initiative, United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) 3. **Costanza Strinati**, Manager, Climate Policy Initiative 4. **Klaus Prochaska**, Senior Financial Sector Specialist (Climate Change), ADB Moderator: **Ignacio Lorenzo Arana**, Director of Technical Advisory on Biodiversity and Climate, CAF
18:02–18:10	Audience Interaction Discussion will center on implementation challenges, capacity priorities, and opportunities for collaboration
18:10–18:15	Closing Remarks **Ignacio Lorenzo Arana**, Director of Technical Advisory on Biodiversity and Climate, CAF Summary of priority actions and ways forward for emerging nature taxonomies and its implementation

6. Speakers (in order of appearance)

Yoko Watanabe
Director for Nature and Environment, ADB



Yoko Watanabe heads the environment and nature initiatives of ADB, including biodiversity, nature-based solutions and nature finance, air quality, and circular economy. She has over 30 years of professional experience working on nature and environment management. She has strategically managed large teams and worked on environment projects and programs in over 130 countries.

Prior to joining ADB, she directed the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme, the largest GEF program, as its Global Manager at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in New York. In her role, she worked closely on global environmental issues with civil society and local communities. She also worked at the GEF Secretariat in Washington, D.C. for over a decade and held key positions, as well as served at the World Bank, World Wildlife Fund, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Ignacio Lorenzo Arana
Director of Technical Advisory on Biodiversity and Climate, CAF



Ignacio Lorenzo Arana has been Director of Technical Advisory on Biodiversity and Climate at CAF for more than three years. Previously, he was Director of Climate Change in the Ministry of Housing, Land Planning and Environment of Uruguay and Chair of the Coordination Board of the National Climate Change Response System, where he coordinated the implementation of the National Climate Change Policy and Uruguay´s first Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement.

Mr. Arana holds an Architect degree with urban planning research background and is currently Assistant Professor in Urban Economics at the Institute of Urban Theory, at the School of Architecture, Design and Urbanism of Universidad de la República, in Uruguay.

Costanza Strinati
Manager, Climate Policy Initiative

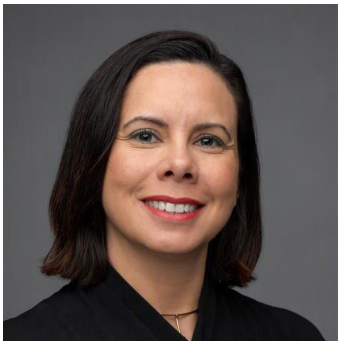


Costanza Strinati leads Climate Policy Initiative's (CPI) Nature Finance Tracking work and CPI's engagement within the Global Environment Facility's Net-Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator Integrated Programme. Her work focuses on tracking and assessing finance flows, identifying funding gaps, and developing road maps to mobilize public and private finance for climate and nature objectives.

As part of CPI's Tracking team, Ms. Strinati also leads and contributes to global, sectoral, and thematic analyses of climate finance, including CPI's flagship *Global Landscape of Climate Finance* and the International Development Finance Club's *Green Finance Mapping*. Her work examines the scale and distribution of finance, the roles of different financial actors, and the interventions needed to direct investment towards sustainable transitions.

Prior to joining CPI, Costanza worked at the International Renewable Energy Agency, where she led analytical work on renewable energy and energy transition finance and assessed renewable energy commitments under the Paris Agreement. She also worked at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, supporting renewable energy project preparation and implementation.

Vanessa Callau
Biodiversity and Natural Capital Sector Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)



Vanessa Callau leads the integration of biodiversity and natural capital considerations into country diagnostics, planning, programming, and institutional frameworks across Latin America and the Caribbean. She plays a key role in advancing the agenda with multilateral development banks, donors, civil society, and other key stakeholders, fostering dialogue and collaboration, and helping strengthen the IDB's positioning on nature-positive development policies and financial solutions. She also leads the IDB's work on natural capital approaches, including natural capital assessment, valuation, and accounting, and serves as the IDB Sherpa to the Multilateral Development Banks Nature Working Group.

With more than 22 years of experience spanning multilateral development institutions, academia, and the private sector, Vanessa works to strengthen the integration of nature into development decision-making, public policy, and investment strategies. She holds a bachelor's degree in International Relations from the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo and a master's degree in Sustainability and Environmental Management from Harvard University.

Aurélia Blin
Land Lead, Revenues for Nature Initiative, United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative



Aurélia Blin has a 20+ year track record in market development, innovative finance mechanisms, and mainstreaming sustainable finance, with significant results across multiple sectors. She has driven capital into tropical forest conservation through the Tropical Landscapes Finance Facility and the Innovative Finance for the Amazon, Cerrado, and Chaco; supported food system transformation via the Good Food Finance Network and the Responsible Commodities Facility; and advanced early-stage investments in biodiversity restoration with the Restoration Seed Capital Facility. Additionally, she played a pivotal role in scaling sustainable finance through the inaugural Swiss-based Building Bridges Initiative and launching the InsuResilience target and fund, adopted by the G7, to enhance climate risk transfer and resilience in partnership with the insurance industry.



Klaus Prochaska
Senior Financial Sector Specialist (Climate Change), ADB



Klaus Prochaska is a Senior Financial Sector Specialist at ADB, where he works in the sustainable finance team. Previously, he was Head of the Financial Sector Development practice at GIZ. He has worked in financial sector development for 20 years, focusing on financial inclusion, digital financial services, financial sector policy, and sustainable finance. During his career, he held positions with the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), the World Bank, the Alliance for Financial Inclusion, and Telenor Asia. He holds a law degree from the University of Vienna and a master's degree in international relations from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

Note: Presentations and/or other related materials (e.g., flyers, news, etc.), if available, will be made available through the session's event page here or visit the full NSFH participation at CBD COP17 event page.