



SESSION DESCRIPTION FORM 2.

10TH WORLD WATER FORUM

This Session Description Form 2 is for the specified program of the session. Please complete this form no later than 28th of February 2024.

**The session description 1 (online form) is separately requested for the session coordinators to deliver a concise session outline with the contact info and the logistical requests.*

Session Code and Title:

Grassroots to Treetops, Mountains to Coasts: Investing in Eco-DRR for Sustainable Future

Session Coordinators (Name, Position, Organization, email, mobile number):

Niladri Gupta, Sr. Water Resources Management Specialist, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), niladri.gupta@adpc.net, +66824354834

Ivana Benitez Landa, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), ivana.b-landa@iclei.org

Geoffrey Wilson, Senior Water Resources Specialist, Asian Development Bank (ADB), gwilson@adb.org

Louise Heegaard, Partnerships and Funding Mobilisation Expert, International Development, DHI, lohe@dhigroup.com

Session Description including objectives and expected outcomes (500 words maximum):

Investing in Eco-DRR is pivotal for fostering a sustainable future, safeguarding both ecosystems and communities against the adverse impacts of natural hazards. The rationale behind this lies in the recognition that healthy ecosystems, such as forests, wetlands, and coral reefs, play a crucial role in mitigating the impacts of natural hazards from mountains to coasts. For example, mangroves and coral reefs act as natural buffers, reducing the intensity of storm surges and tsunamis, thereby protecting coastal communities. Similarly, forests and wetlands can help mitigate the risk of flooding and landslides by stabilizing soil and regulating water flow. Eco-DRR has been seen to be cost-effective in the long term as it reduces the need for expensive disaster relief and reconstruction efforts. Economically, as a co-benefit the Eco-DRR solutions support the livelihood of the local community. Ecologically, it promotes biodiversity and supports the functioning of ecosystem services essential for human well-being, such as clean water, air, and fertile soil. Socially, it involves community participation and empowers local communities to manage their natural resources sustainably, thus enhancing social cohesion and resilience. Limited awareness and understanding of the concept among policymakers and communities, the need for interdisciplinary collaboration, and the challenge of quantifying the economic benefits of ecosystem services are the major challenges inhibiting the required investment. Additionally, the role of financial mechanisms like green bonds or blended finance to attract investment also needs to be explored.

The objective of the proposed session is to:

1. Foster a comprehensive understanding among stakeholders about the benefits and challenges of Eco-DRR by sharing innovative research findings, successful case studies, and best practices encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration.

2. Provide a platform for policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and community representatives to engage in meaningful dialogue, exchange knowledge, and build partnerships.
3. Catalyze action towards the incorporation of Eco-DRR into national and international policy frameworks, thereby enhancing resilience, and promoting sustainable development.
4. Understand different financial mechanism that can be explored for Eco-DRR

The expected outcomes / takeaway are:

1. Participants will gain a deeper insight into the concept and importance of Eco-DRR, including its role in mitigating climate change impacts and disasters.
2. Recommendation on future institutional and interdisciplinary collaborations on Eco-DRR from mountains to coasts
3. Suggestions on innovative funding mechanisms and investment opportunities (e.g. from ADB, GCF, and The World Bank) to support the implementation of Eco-DRR projects, addressing one of the major challenges to scaling up Eco-DRR efforts.
4. Enhanced awareness and advocacy for the importance of investing in Eco-DRR among key decision-makers, stakeholders, and the general public, leading to increased support and prioritization of Eco-DRR in practice.
- 5.

Detailed Session plan (90 mins):

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS	SPEAKERS STATUS (OK OR TBC)
5 mins	Opening remarks and setting the scene	Senaka Basnayake, ADPC	TBC
7 mins	Speaker 1: Topic - Plantation for landslide stabilization and the role of women in it.	Muzaffar Bukhari, ADB	OK
7 mins	Speaker 2: Topic - Hydrological limits of change for key wetland assets and river flows in Mekong Region	Stefan Paul Szykarski, DHI, Sweden	OK
7 mins	Speaker 3: Topic - Working towards a framework on NbS for DRR in HKH context (TBC)	Saswata Sanyal, DRR Intervention Manager, ICIMOD	TBC
7 mins	Speaker 4: Topic - (TBC)	ICLEI	TBC
10 mins	Speaker 5	Keigo, Nakamura, Japan Riverfront Research Center	OK
7 mins	Speaker 6: Topic - NbS for coastal resilience (TBC)	Jasper Lueven, Royal HaskoningDHV, Indonesia	OK
35 mins	Panel Discussion: Moderated by ADPC	Niladri Gupta, ADPC Panelist: ADB - Muzaffar Bukhari ICLEI ICIMOD - Neera Shrestha Pradhan, Action Area Coordinator-Cryosphere and Water Risks, Nepal	TBC



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		Royal HaskoningDHV - Jasper Lueven, Indonesia Keigo, Nakamura, Japan Riverfront Research Center Stefan Paul Szykarski, DHI, Denmark	
5 mins	Summary and closing remarks	Geoffry Wilson, ADB	OK
80 mins	10 mins buffer for any contingency due to speaker exceeding 7 in time allocation. Speakers will be asked to prepare only 5 slides		