
COP28 Side Event

Integrating Actions for Climate and Biodiversity: Opportunities and Potential

Type of session: Side event at SDG Pavilion

Co-hosts: UNRCO – UAE; University of Durham; University of Oxford; Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy

Date: 9 December 2023

Start and end time (local): 09:00 – 10:30

Where: COP28 Blue Zone, Dubai

Background/Context

The dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss are among the most pressing challenges of our time. These two issues are deeply intertwined, with the impacts of climate change exacerbating biodiversity loss, and the degradation of ecosystems further accelerating climate change. The loss of biodiversity not only diminishes the natural beauty and intrinsic value of our planet but also undermines the vital ecosystem services that sustain human life and well-being.

Subsequently, creating synergies between climate and biodiversity policies offers the potential for more effective and sustainable solutions. Strategies that recognize the interdependence of these areas can lead to more resilient ecosystems, enhanced carbon sequestration, and overall better outcomes for both the environment and human societies. For example, conserving and restoring forests not only helps in sequestering carbon but also preserves habitats for countless species, thus tackling both climate change and biodiversity loss.

This event intends to create a cross-disciplinary dialogue to share experiences, discuss challenges, and identify to advance biodiversity preservation and climate action in tandem.

Event Description

The event aims to convene experts, policymakers, academics, and stakeholders to discuss the key findings and recommendations of the "Building Synergies Between Climate & Biodiversity Governance: A Primer for COP28" Primer. The goal is to foster a multi-disciplinary dialogue that can contribute to more effective and integrated approaches to climate and biodiversity governance.

Session organization and proceedings:

Dr Raidan ALSAQQAF, UNRCO-UAE Economist: alsaqqaf@un.org

Event Schedule:

Time	Session Run	Speaker
9:05	Opening	Opening and Setting the Scene (10 min) Dr Raidan ALSAQQAF, United Nations Economist for the UAE
9:15	Keynote presentation	Professor Nathalie Seddon Director, Nature-based Solutions Initiative and Agile Initiative University of Oxford
9:45	Panel Discussion	Objectives: The panel will discuss key elements relating to the primer, and how it can be central in advancing climate action beyond COP28. Moderator: Dr Raidan ALSAQQAF Speakers (by order of speaking): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maja Kent, Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy• Kishan Khoday, UNDP Regional Office for Arab States• Sandeep Sengupta, IUCN• TBC, UAE MoCCaE• TBC, UNEP
10:15 (10 minutes)	Q&A	Moderator asks panelists to field questions from the audience.
10:30	Closing remarks	Guest speaker provides final reflections and closing remarks

Link to Primer:

<https://unitedarabemirates.un.org/en/252177-building-synergies-between-climate-biodiversity-governance-primer-cop28>