

Seminars on nature conservation in German
development cooperation

Biodiversity & Development: Delivering nature-positive development pathways

30 June – 04 July 2025

Putting nature on a path to recovery – opportunities and challenges for ecosystem restoration

04 – 08 August 2025

International Academy for Nature Conservation



Background

The series of seminars on nature conservation in development cooperation has been held at the International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm since 1999. It is jointly organised by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and KfW Development Bank on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the International Academy for Nature Conservation, Isle of Vilm, of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN). The seminar “Biodiversity & Development: Delivering nature-positive development pathways” presents an overview and update of the most relevant concepts. The second seminar is devoted to the in-depth consideration of a specific topic identified as being of particular interest. Based on ongoing discussions in international biodiversity policy fora, the topic “Putting nature on a path to recovery – opportunities and challenges for ecosystem restoration” was chosen for 2025. The language of both seminars will be English.

Venue

Both seminars will take place at the International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm (see <https://www.bfn.de/en/international-academy-nature-conservation-isle-vilm>), which has been a protected area for many centuries.

Participants

The target audience of the seminars are practitioners at the interface of development cooperation, biodiversity conservation and climate change (ministries and affiliated organisations in partner countries of German development cooperation, GIZ, KfW, BMZ, BMUV, consulting companies, NGOs, private sector and universities).

The number of participants is limited to 20 for the seminar “Biodiversity & Development: Delivering nature-positive development pathways” and to 25 for the seminar “Putting nature on a path to recovery – innovations in ecosystem restoration”.

“Biodiversity & Development: Delivering nature-positive development pathways”

30 June – 4 July 2025

Biodiversity is the foundation of ecosystems that sustain human life and societal resilience, providing essential services such as food, water, or climate regulation. However, biodiversity loss continues at an alarming rate, threatening not only ecosystems but also economic and social stability. International commitments, such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasize the need for integrated approaches that link conservation with sustainable development. Development cooperation plays a crucial role in supporting countries to implement effective biodiversity conservation strategies while ensuring benefits for local communities.

This seminar provides a broad-based perspective on biodiversity conservation and its interlinkages with development cooperation. It explores key concepts, policies, and strategies to strengthen conservation efforts while considering economic, social, and governance dimensions. Participants will discuss opportunities and challenges in integrating biodiversity conservation into sectoral policies, planning processes, and international cooperation frameworks. Through case studies and interactive formats, the seminar will foster exchange and mutual learning on practical approaches to biodiversity-friendly development.

Objectives

Participants will

- Gain an overview of the global biodiversity agenda, including frameworks such as the GBF and key policies.
- Expand their knowledge on conservation approaches, from protected areas to landscape-level strategies and nature-based solutions.
- Understand the role of governance, rights-based approaches, and stakeholder participation in conservation and sustainable development.
- Explore synergies and trade-offs between biodiversity conservation and economic development.
- Discuss opportunities and challenges for development cooperation in supporting biodiversity conservation at different levels.
- Learn from each other’s experience.

Contents

The following topics will be addressed through inputs, case studies, group work, discussions and a field trip:

- Global frameworks and commitments related to biodiversity conservation.
- Development cooperation strategies for biodiversity conservation and current trends.
- Approaches to conservation, including protected areas, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable use strategies.
- Mainstreaming biodiversity into other economic sectors, respective sectoral policies and development planning.
- Governance, participation, and equity in conservation initiatives.
- The role of financial and market-based instruments in supporting conservation efforts.

Putting nature on a path to recovery – opportunities and challenges for ecosystem restoration

04 – 08 August 2025

Amidst accelerating environmental degradation and climate change, ecosystem restoration has become a cornerstone for reestablishing natural balance and resilience. With action Target 2 of the GBF, parties to the CBD prominently agreed on ensuring that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) further underscores the urgency to recover degraded landscapes, enhance biodiversity, and secure vital ecosystem services. This seminar explores current

experiences in restoration ecology, emphasizing nature-based solutions, rewilding strategies, and community-led initiatives that can transform degraded environments into thriving, resilient ecosystems.

By integrating recent scientific advancements with traditional ecological knowledge, the seminar offers a holistic perspective on restoring nature's functions and services. With an emphasis on turning policy into practice, the seminar will highlight successful examples of restoration initiatives from around the world. Participants will delve into the latest restoration techniques, assess enabling policy frameworks, and examine financial and governance mechanisms that support large-scale recovery efforts.

Objectives

Participants will

- Gain a comprehensive overview of current global trends, challenges, and opportunities in ecosystem restoration.
- Expand their knowledge of innovative restoration techniques, including through nature-based solutions, rewilding, and assisted regeneration.
- Understand the role of policy frameworks and financial mechanisms in supporting large-scale restoration initiatives.
- Examine the importance of community engagement and indigenous practices in driving successful restoration efforts.
- Explore strength and weaknesses of current approaches for the monitoring of ecosystem restoration.
- Discuss and develop practical strategies for integrating scientific, policy, and local perspectives to accelerate ecosystem recovery.

Contents

The seminar will feature a mix of expert presentations, case studies, interactive group work, discussions, and a field visit to a restoration site. Topics include:

- Global trends and restoration targets: Analysing the state of degraded ecosystems and the roadmap for recovery.
- Innovative restoration techniques: Exploring the latest approaches in rewilding, nature-based solutions, and assisted regeneration.
- Policy and finance: Reviewing policy frameworks and financial instruments that mobilize resources for ecosystem restoration.
- Community and indigenous knowledge: Highlighting the role of local stakeholders and traditional practices in sustainable restoration.
- Case studies: Learning from successful implementation measures and on-the-ground experiences that illustrate transformative restoration outcomes.

Costs

1st seminar (30 June -4 July), arrival Sunday, 29 June: approx. 550 € per participant (including full board and lodging)

2nd seminar (04-08 August), arrival Sunday, 3 August: approx. 1200 € per participant (including full board and lodging)

The final fee can only be set by mid-April 2025. A late cancellation of your registration within 30 days prior to the start of the seminar will imply a fee of about 500 € in case no substitute can be found. There are no reductions possible. Before applying, please ensure that all costs (incl. travel) will be covered by the applicant or his/her organisation.

Contact

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How to apply

Please apply by filling in and submitting the attached application form. Please note that there are separate forms for each seminar.

Deadline for the application:

31 March 2025

Confirmations will be sent out by 15 April 2025.

On behalf of



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection