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NATURE-POSITIVE INFRASTRUCTURE:

Mainstreaming Biodiversity Across the Transportation Lifecycle

18 SEPTEMBER 2026 | 10:00 – 11:30 CEST | PALAIS DES NATIONS, ROOM S-29 & ONLINE (WEBEX)

NATURE-POSITIVE INFRASTRUCTURE:

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the Transportation Lifecycle



Welcome

18 SEPTEMBER 2026 | 10:00 – 11:30 CEST

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Diana RIZZOLIO

Coordinator, Geneva Environment
Network | Moderator



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Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development



Sustainable Infrastructure and the Role of Geneva

NATURE-POSITIVE INFRASTRUCTURE:

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SPEAKERS



Kate NEWMAN

Vice President, Sustainable
Infrastructure and Public
Sector Initiatives, WWF



Evan FREUND

Senior Director,
Sustainable Infrastructure,
Forests, WWF



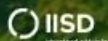
Rowan PALMER

Programme Management
Officer, Infrastructure Unit,
UNEP



Liesbeth CASIER

Lead, Public Procurement &
Sustainable Infrastructure,
IISD



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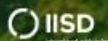
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SETTING THE SCENE:

Why Biodiversity Matters in Transportation Infrastructure |
Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development (GRID)
Integrated Program

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Nature-Positive Infrastructure: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Across the Transportation Lifecycle

Rowan Palmer – UNEP
Kate Newman – WWF-US
Evan Freund – WWF-US
Liesbeth Cassier – IISD

09.18.26



Infrastructure Systems

Built Environment



Natural Environment



Enabling Environment



Nature-based Infrastructure

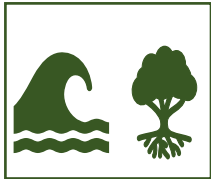
Five Functions of Nbi



Deliver services directly



Enhance service delivery by built asset



Protect other assets from climate and other disasters



Benefit infrastructure workforces



Provide **multiple additional benefits**



79%

Of SDG targets across all 17 goals

95%

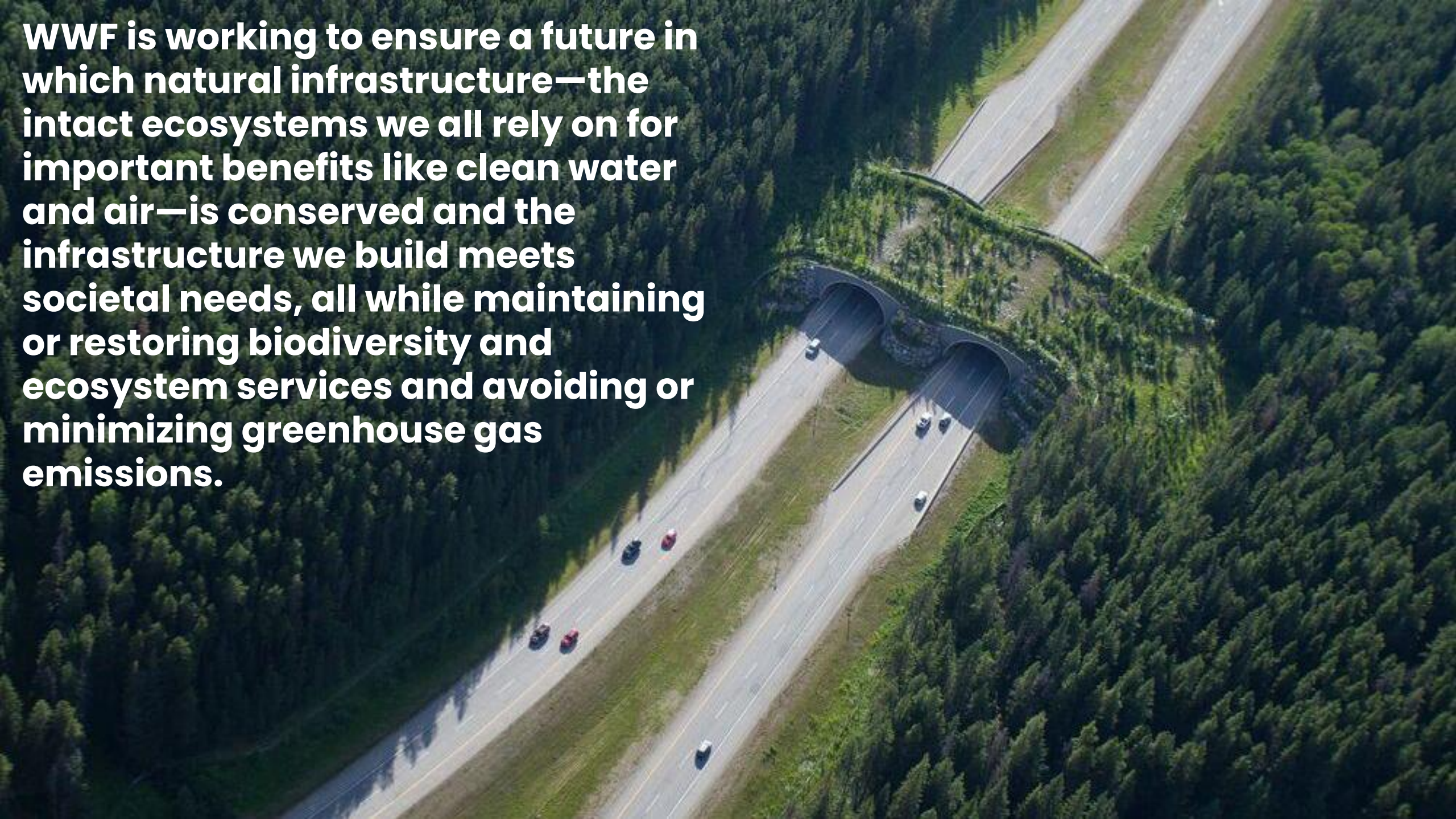
Of SDG targets when deployed with built infrastructure

24-47%

More targets in a given sector compared to built infrastructure alone

70%

Of GBF targets



WWF is working to ensure a future in which natural infrastructure—the intact ecosystems we all rely on for important benefits like clean water and air—is conserved and the infrastructure we build meets societal needs, all while maintaining or restoring biodiversity and ecosystem services and avoiding or minimizing greenhouse gas emissions.

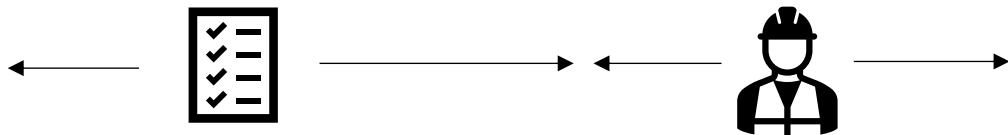
Engaging Across the Infrastructure Lifecycle

ILLUSTRATIVE & NON-EXHAUSTIVE



Ideas, policies and overall plans are developed

Opportunities to influence and change are greatest in early stages since projects flow from the policies and plans



Projects are designed

Procurement strategy is defined

Limited capital spent during this stage

Some opportunity to influence in ideation and pre/feasibility stages

Contracts have been signed and most capital is deployed

Land acquired / purchased

Physical structures in place

Very challenging to influence and change

A GLOBAL CHALLENGE

Infrastructure is essential for development – but its impacts on nature are accelerating.



PAVED ROADS ON THE RISE

The amount of **paved roads on Earth are expected to increase 60%** from 2010 to 2050, enough to encircle the world more than 600 times.



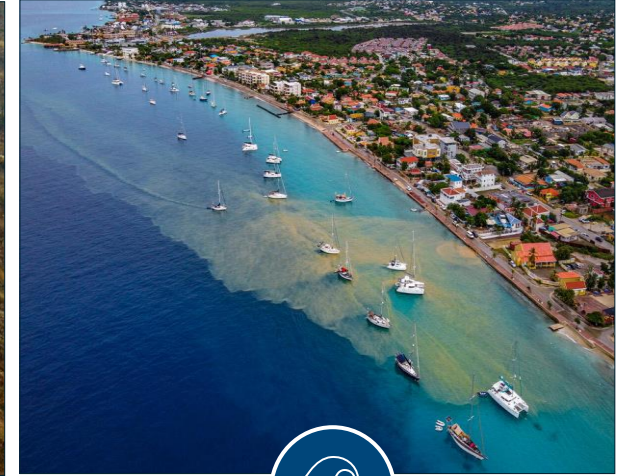
INFRASTRUCTURE DRIVES EMISSIONS

Infrastructure contributes approximately **79% of global greenhouse gas emissions**, with most associated with energy, buildings, and transport.



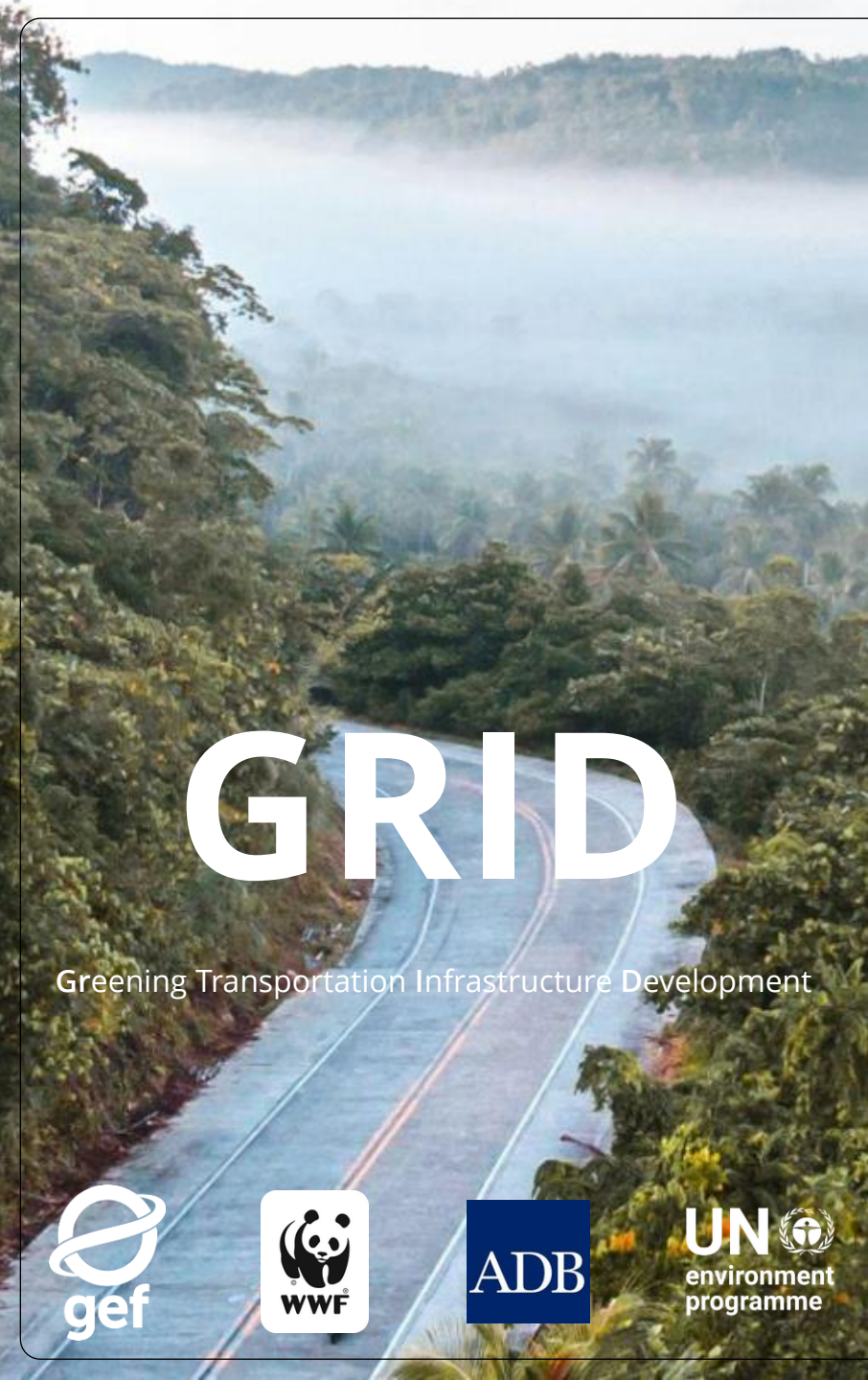
ROADS FRAGMENT HABITAT

Roads have cut the world into **600,000 habitat fragments**; only 7% of patches between roads in the world are larger than 100 km².



COASTAL WETLANDS UNDER PRESSURE

More than **half of coastal wetlands have been lost** due to infrastructure expansion.



GRID

Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development



Goal of the GRID IP:

Enable countries to meet transportation infrastructure needs, including associated economic and social benefits critical to achieving the SDGs and Paris Agreement goals.

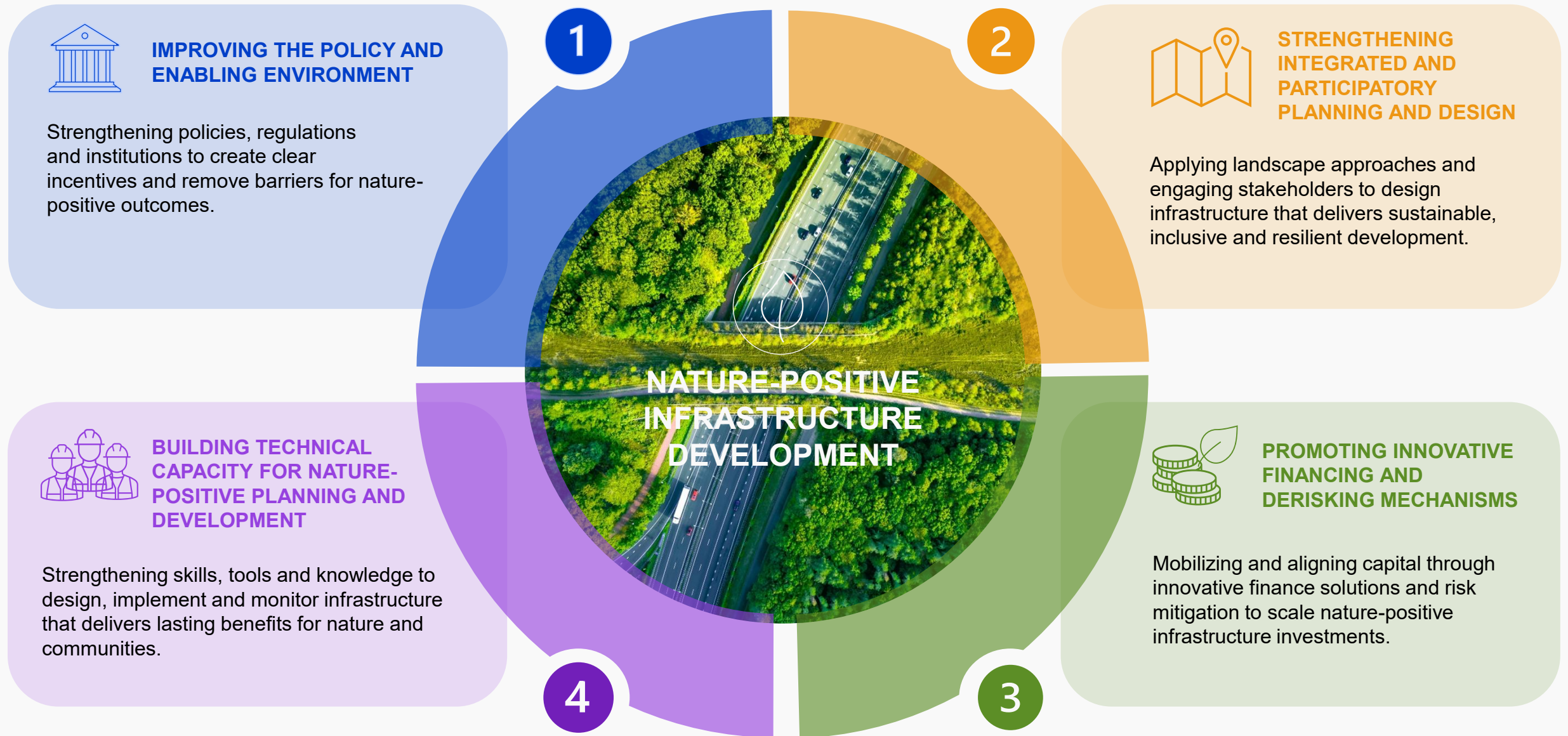
Objective:

Advance the **transition toward sustainable transportation infrastructure** that safeguards and enhances key coastal, marine, and terrestrial ecosystems.

Countries:

Nepal, Suriname, Malaysia, Ukraine, Philippines

Strategic Priorities

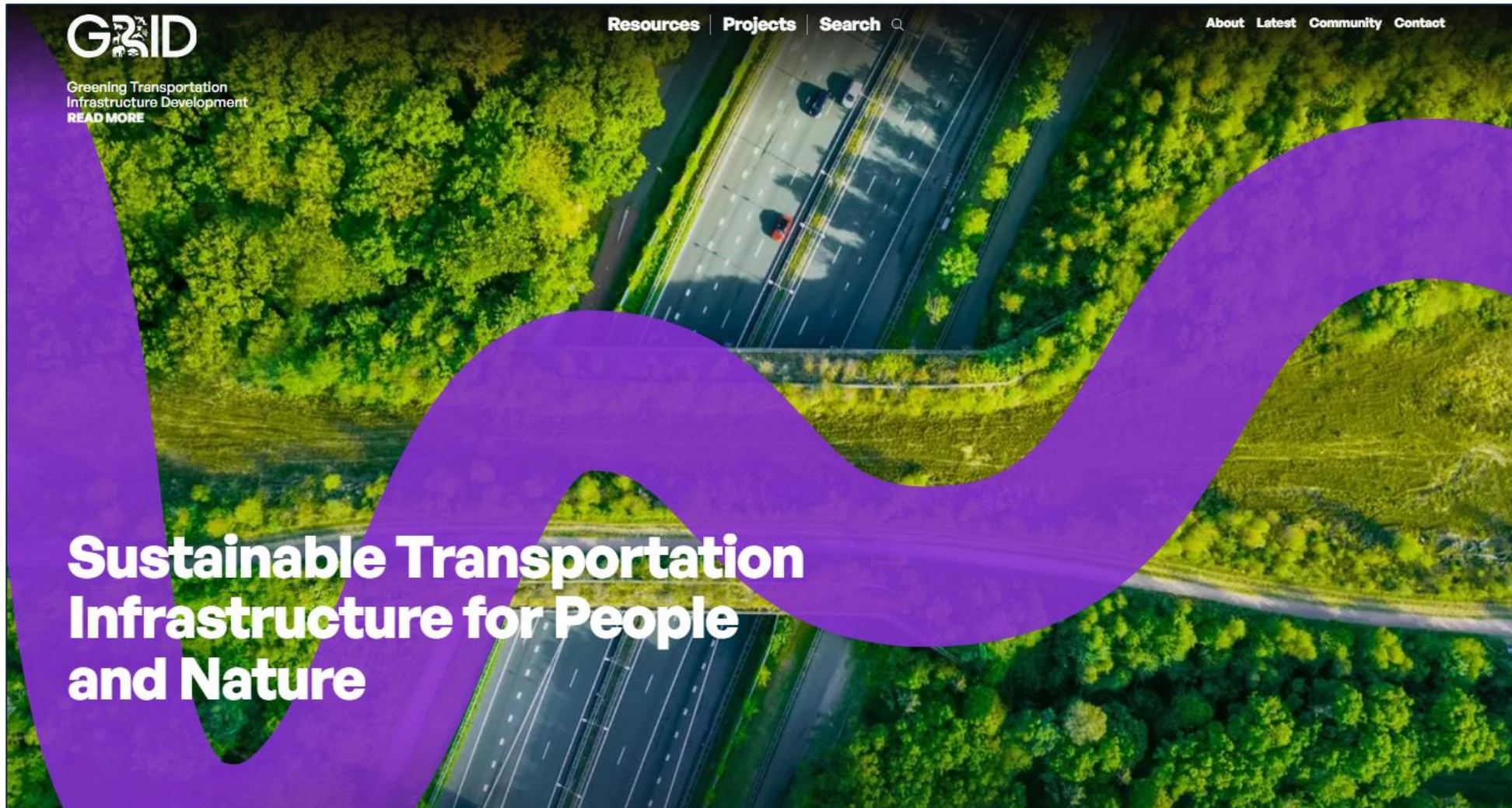


Country Projects Overview



Topic Overview	Integrate biodiversity into marine port development; leverage NbS for biodiversity, resilience	Align roads with landscape services; develop green transportation design principles	Integrate biodiversity (and climate resilience) in transportation infrastructure	Integrate biodiversity into port infrastructure planning and development; promote nature-positive solutions	Integrate planning/design processes for reconstruction and connectivity
Location	Kemaman, Kuantan, and Bintulu Ports	Terai Arc Landscape	Caraga Region	Suriname River and Estuary	M06 Road in the Carpathian Mountains and Polissia
Executing Agency	Maritime Institute of Malaysia, Ministry of Transport (MIMA)	Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport (MoPIT) Ministry of Forest and Environment (MOFE)	Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)	Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment	WWF-Ukraine
Implementing Agency	UNEP	ADB	ADB	WWF	UNEP
Financing Amounts	GEF: \$3,866,665 Cofinancing: \$27,066,662	GEF: \$4,035,433 Cofinancing: \$100,500,000	GEF: \$4,000,000 Cofinancing: \$243,285,966	GEF: \$2,666,660 Cofinancing: \$7,099,437	GEF: \$2,666,660 Cofinancing: \$5,989,250

Get Involved



- Become a partner
- Join the community of practice
- Use the knowledge hub
- Access learning opportunities

From bottleneck to enabler and strategic policy tool

Today's challenges with infrastructure procurement

1

Limited awareness

Many decision-makers overlook the biodiversity crisis and public procurement's influence.

2

Upfront cost bias

Risk aversion favors the lowest initial cost over long-term value.

3

Fragmented responsibility

Teams still treat procurement as an administrative function.

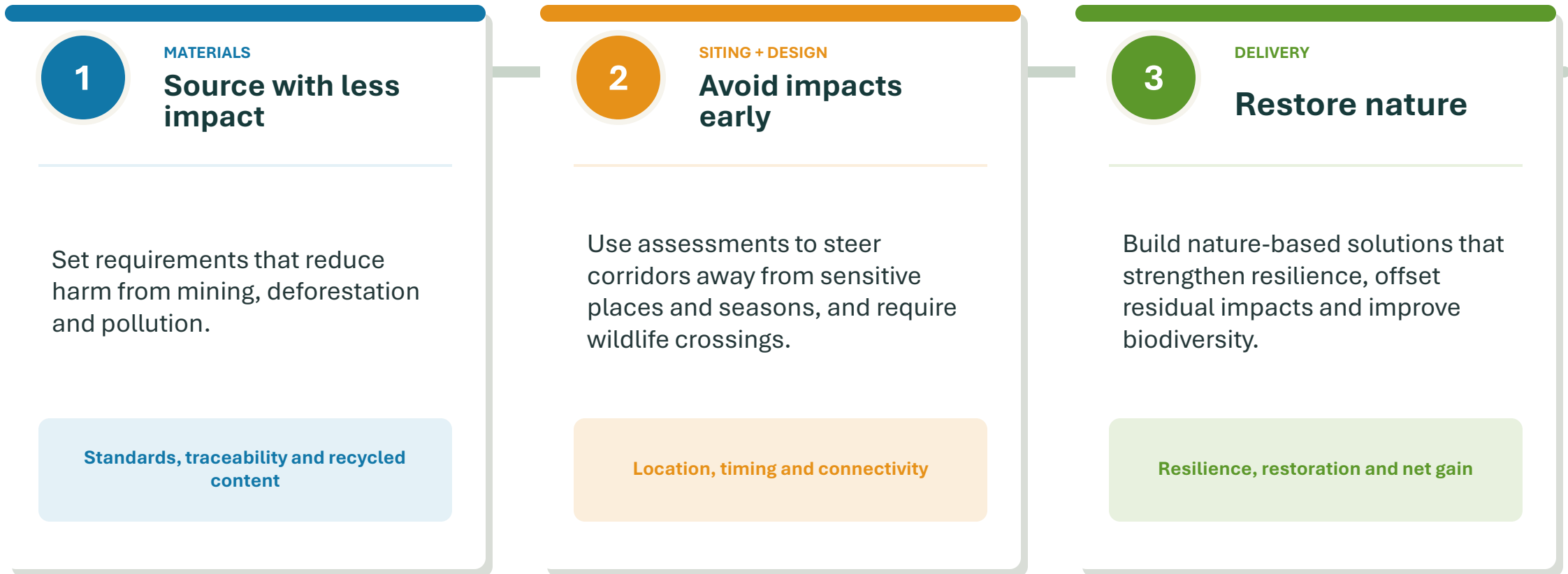
4

Implementation gap

Practitioners need guidance, policies and real examples.

How procurement supports nature-positive transport

Three levers that shape what gets sourced, where infrastructure goes and what nature gains



Procurement turns nature-positive intent into contract requirements and measurable outcomes.

Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Infrastructure Procurement

PHASE I: FOUNDATIONAL WORK AND DIALOGUES

Evidence Base

- Background report with blueprint for nature positive procurement

Validation and Engagement

- Multi-stakeholder dialogues

Summary Brief

- Importance, gaps and recommendations for Nature-positive procurement

PHASE II: STRENGTHENING PRACTICAL CAPACITIES

Case Studies

- Handbook with step-by-step guidance

- Training program with procurement professionals

- + Targeted support to GRID stakeholders

OUTCOMES

- Awareness and enabling environment
- Increased institutional capacity
- Nature-positive procurement in GRID



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Q&A

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Closing

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THANK YOU!



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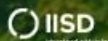
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COP17

YEREVAN ARMENIA

TAKING ACTION
FOR NATURE

19-30 OCTOBER 2026



**From Geneva to Yerevan:
International Geneva @
UN Biodiversity Conference**

WHAT'S NEXT?

 genevaenvironmentnetwork.org



CONFERENCE

Digital Innovation for MEAs: Knowledge Platforms and AI | Minamata Online

22 SEP 2026 | 11:00 – 12:00

International Environment House 1 | Room 2 & Online | Webex

Minamata Convention, GEN

🕒 Digital Cooperation
🌐 SDG9



COMMEMORATING:
5 YEARS SINCE THE
RECOGNITION OF THE HUMAN
RIGHT TO A CLEAN, HEALTHY
AND SUSTAINABLE
ENVIRONMENT

📅 Thursday, September 24
🕒 12:00 – 13:00 hrs
📍 Room Concordia 5, Palais des Nations (53 Sessions of the Human Rights Council)

CONFERENCE

A Celebration and Stocktaking: Five years since the recognition of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment | HRC63 Side Event

24 SEP 2026 | 12:00 – 13:00

Palais des Nations | Concordia 5

Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council, Costa Rica, Maldives, Morocco, Slovenia

🌐 Human Rights and Environment



CONFERENCE

Coastal Cities Towns & Settlements on the Front Line: Protecting People from Sea-Level Rise - Towards a human rights agenda for liveable, inclusive and resilient cities | HRC63 Side Event

25 SEP 2026 | 12:00 – 13:00

Palais des Nations | Concordia 1

Dominican Republic, The Bahamas, Cabo Verde, Cyprus, Ecuador, Maldives, Sovereign Order of Malta

🌐 Human Rights and Environment | Climate
🌐 SDG13 | SDG14



VIRTUAL

The Economics of Addressing Pharmaceuticals in the Environment | Addressing Pharmaceuticals in the Environment Series

01 OCT 2026 | 14:00 – 15:30

Online | Webex

UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch, GEN

🌐 Chemicals and Pollution
🌐 SDG3 | SDG12



CONFERENCE

Human Rights at the 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity | HRC63 Side Event

02 OCT 2026 | 12:00 – 13:00

Palais des Nations, Room XI

Armonia, OHCHR, GEN

🌐 Human Rights and Environment | Nature
🌐 SDG14 | SDG15

MINAMATA ONLINE



MINAMATA
CONVENTION
ON MERCURY



DIGITAL INNOVATION FOR MEAS: KNOWLEDGE PLATFORMS AND AI

22 SEP 2026 | 11:00 - 12:00 CEST INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT HOUSE & ONLINE

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