

Nature Positive, Recovering Ecological Function and Multiple Benefits in the Built Environment.

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According to the World Economic Forum, half of the global gross domestic product is highly or moderately dependent on nature; simultaneously the world is undergoing the sixth great extinction and a reduction of wildlife populations of nearly 68% since 1970, with 1 million identified species at risk of extinction in the coming decades. Identifying and implementing innovative strategies to recover ecological function and biodiversity, connect habitats, reduce pollution, manage invasive species, sequester and store carbon, and many other pressing needs are as relevant as conserving preserved and highly functional landscapes.

Nature Positive, expressed at the last Convention of Biological Diversity, can be applied to industries with major impacts and recognized degradation drivers. For the built environment, the minimization of impact can be transformed into the recovery and promotion of biodiversity; the application of Nature-based Solutions offers an effective framework to increase resilience, biodiversity, and other ecosystem attributes while adding value to projects and investment portfolios.

The presentation will explore frameworks, tools, and case studies, including The Ecology of Place imperative from the Living Building Challenge green building certification and the Engineering with Nature framework from the USACE. The role of restoration practitioners within the design table is essential; it marks the difference between regulatory compliance and regenerative design. This crucial role is expressed clearly by E.O Wilson:

“Expansion and stewardship may appear at first to be conflicting goals, but the opposite is true. The depth of the conservation ethic will be measured by the extent to which each of the two approaches to nature are used to reshape and reinforce the other.” E.O. Wilson *Biodiversity* 1988

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