Driving transformative change together at the 2018 Natural Capital Symposium

By Gretchen Daily, Mary Ruckelshaus, and Anne Guerry

We've asked many leaders in our diverse community what keeps their energy and spirit going, through the ups and downs of forging a new path, opening new ways of thinking and doing. Three themes stand out in their answers – being centered in one's values and orientation; being connected to creative, smart, resourceful, and supportive people; and understanding diverse perspectives on the varied dimensions of nature's wonders.

In March, our community will come together in these key ways. The 2018 Natural Capital Symposium is drawing leaders young and old from all over the world, working to improve the well-being of people and nature.

We will hone our center and define further ways of supporting one another, in driving the transformative change that none of us could hope to realize on our own. We'll share the most inspiring innovations in policy, finance, and management and along critical science, technology, and cultural frontiers that advance our cause.

We're at an inflection point and have a lot to do in the year ahead. Our movement has real
The Symposium is designed to offer something for everyone. There will be inspiring stories about using nature's contributions to people to reframe sustainable development planning from Africa to Asia and from the Caribbean to the Arctic. There will be stimulating exchanges on crucial science frontiers—in health, in climate change, in remote sensing, and in integrating different human value systems in decisions. There will be explorations of the benefits of nature in the world's cities that most people today call home. There will be hands-on sessions where GIS wizzes and complete novices alike can learn to use NatCap's global data and software tools. This will happen in a wide range of formats: talks, interviews, roundtables, poster sessions, lightning talks, working groups, and relaxed conversations over a glass of California wine.

This year we have a special honor of welcoming the Chinese Academy of Sciences as a core NatCap partner. We will meet many high-level delegates from China, who are coming to share their experience in opening a pathway to green growth, transforming livelihoods and restoring nature, and co-developing natural capital science and tools to guide policy change and investments and of massive scope and scale.

And we look forward to welcoming everyone with a warm evening of celebration and renewal at the Bing Concert Hall on Tuesday evening, March 20th. Our program will highlight performers from Chinese provinces with vital natural capital, part of a new green financial system.

Check out the [program](#) and join us. You've got until March 3 to [register](#). We need you!

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**What NatCappers are most looking forward to at the 2018 Symposium**

**Henry Borrebach, Outreach & Training Lead, and Natural Capital Symposium Lead**

"One of the things that I'm most excited about for this year's event is the fourth day, Thursday, that allows collaborators new and old to work together to problem solve, generate ideas, and otherwise take advantage of so many people from this community of practice being in the same place."

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**Perrine Hamel, Ecosystem Service Scientist and Livable Cities Outcome Lead**

"I'm thrilled about the special focus on cities this year, with a great line-up of speakers from academia and practice. At the workshop and throughout the Symposium, I hope we can foster new collaborations focusing on urban nature and get some feedback on the new tools NatCap is developing in that space."
Kate Brauman, Lead Scientist for Global Water Assessment at the University of Minnesota’s Institute on the Environment

"I'm excited about meeting up with a group of remote sensors and ecosystem analysts at the Natural Capital Symposium to test out ideas for better integrating Earth Observations into ecosystem service models. Modeling ecosystem services can be particularly challenging without enough data and Earth Observations can help!"

Emily McKenzie, Lead, Science-Policy Interface, WWF/Natural Capital Project

"This is an exciting chance to learn about cutting-edge natural capital country cases led by the International Finance Corporation and the Natural Capital Coalition. Cases in Rwanda, Colombia, Indonesia, and the Philippines connect business application of the Natural Capital Protocol and public sector natural capital accounting. Useful insights have emerged about the opportunities for, and obstacles to, natural capital approaches based on local realities in diverse countries, sectors and industries.

The Green Growth Knowledge Platform, a global network of international organisations and experts that identifies and addresses knowledge gaps in green growth theory and practice recently formed a Natural Capital Working Group. The group convened for the first time in Washington DC in December 2017. At the Natural Capital Symposium this working group will focus on the priority of linking geospatial and socio-economic data at different levels.

More information about the 2018 Natural Capital Symposium is available on our event website. Registration deadline is March 3, 2018.

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