



NATURAL
CAPITAL
COALITION

Natural Capital Coalition: A Day of Collaboration

11/02/2016

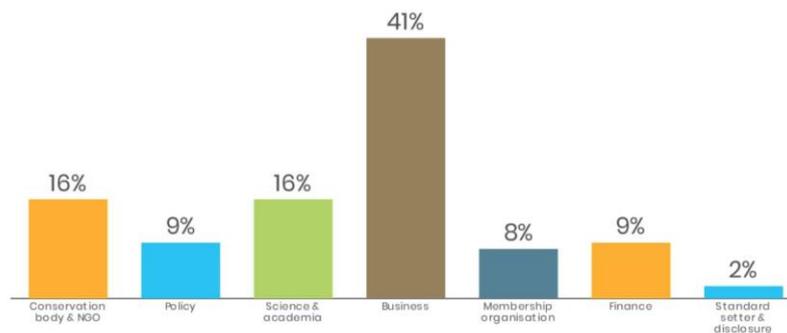
A Day of Collaboration

On November 29 the Natural Capital Coalition hosted 'A Day of Collaboration', a side event to the World Forum on Natural Capital. We hosted this event to take advantage of the numerous Coalition partners who had already gathered in Edinburgh for the Forum and to strengthen collaboration in the community.

Over the course of the day, delegates built on the learnings from the sessions over the last few days, caught up on existing collaboration projects and identified key challenges that we collectively face and need new activities to address.

The Coalition is now made up of over 270 organizations. From these, over 160 people took part representing a similar split as we see across the Coalition's seven worlds.

Which of the seven worlds do you most associate with?



1.1 Pieces of the Puzzle: The Seven Worlds

To catalyze the day of collaboration, Mark Gough, Executive Director of the Coalition, invited seven representatives from the Coalition's Advisory Panel - one from each of the seven worlds, to identify themselves, and to then move to different corners of the room.

The remaining delegates, armed with post-it notes, were then invited to vent any frustrations, or highlight appreciations, for the way that they believed these different 'worlds' were either encouraging or hindering the uptake of natural capital approaches.



As delegates continued to highlight opportunities and challenges, several common themes began to emerge including:

- Short termism within the business, finance, and policy communities as serious barriers.
- Complexity in the approaches of conservation bodies, academics and membership organizations
- Silos - Many recognized that while significant progress had been made, people are still operating in their world silo and this is a barrier to adoption.

Unsurprisingly, the main opportunity was better understanding between the seven worlds – exactly the point of the collaboration day!

1.2 What are the challenges to mainstreaming natural capital?

In this session, we introduced a bit of competition! Provocateurs vied to convince delegates that their challenge was the 'single most pressing challenge' to mainstreaming natural capital approaches in decision making.

Richard Mattison, CEO of Trucost, a subsidiary of S&P Dow Jones Indices made the case for engaging the finance sector, describing the potential of capital markets to scale natural capital approaches through increased investment, and the current investment gap as the greatest challenge.

Oliver Greenfield, Convener of the Green Economy Coalition argued for the importance of engaging government officials and policy makers to ensure that the societal, cultural and intrinsic value of natural capital is included in decision making, and that it is not only value to businesses and the economy that is being considered when making a decision in businesses and governments.

Michelle Lapinski built on her World Forum keynote and made the case for the integration of spatial data, GIS modelling and machine learning in natural capital assessments. Michelle argued that making these tools available to businesses was really going to enable the mainstreaming of natural capital approaches.

Last but not least, Jeremy Nicholls, CEO of Social Value UK and Social Value International, argued that we need to adapt existing accounting standards to include social capital, alongside natural and financial capital in order to begin the move to a truly integrated and comprehensive approach to valuation and decision making.

The session was deftly moderated by Jennifer Morris, President of Conservation International.

After one of the most-lively debates ever hosted by the Coalition, with some provocateurs left staring ahead and not being able to look each other in the eye, the audience was asked to vote. Oliver Greenfield triumphed, with the majority of delegates agreeing via live polling that increased engagement with governments and policy makers and more focus on the societal, cultural and intrinsic value of natural capital was needed in order to scale the approach.

In response the Coalition will address this particular challenge with a focus on creating a positive Enabling Environment in 2018. It will build on the Combining Forces conversations it has started to link national level and business approach approaches and continue to evolve the Government Dialogue Program, working closely with partners such as the Green Economy Coalition.

1.4 How Can We Contribute?

The purpose of this session was to provide opportunity for greater collaboration. Seven people introduced their project to room in a two-minute pitch. Participants then identified the project that they would most like to contribute to and joined the project lead to work together identifying solutions to existing challenges and ways to take the project forward.

The Projects, and leads who introduced them, were:

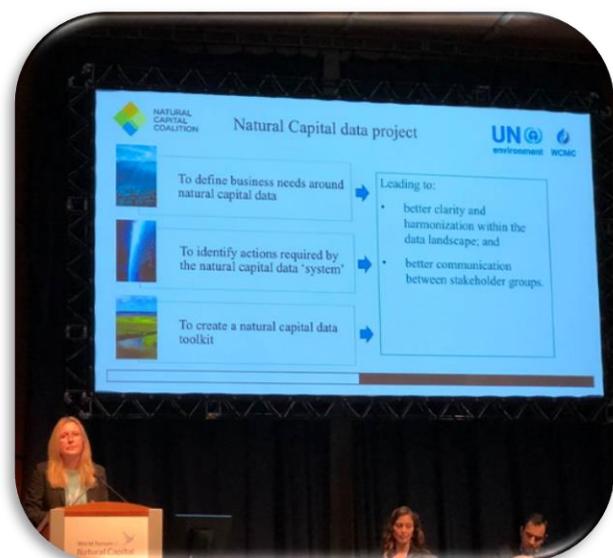
- The Biodiversity Supplement to the Natural Capital Protocol*, Gemma.Cranston@cisl.cam.ac.uk
- The Oceans Supplement to the Natural Capital Protocol, rportela@conservation.org
- GreenerU, ajay@greeneru.nl
- One Planet Thinking, kabbenbroek@wwf.nl
- Built Environment Sector Guide to the Natural Capital Protocol, Marta.Santamaria@naturalcapitalcoalition.org
- Forest Products Sector Guide to the Natural Capital Protocol, william.j.evison@pwc.com
- Advancing Environmental Risk Management, m.morice@globalcanopy.org

*Sector Guides & Supplements to the Natural Capital Protocol are developed in partnership with Coalition organizations and industry associations and are not produced by the Coalition secretariat alone.

1.5 The data project

Annelisa Grigg, Head of Programme, Business and Biodiversity at UNEP-WCMC led the final deep dive of the day, exploring the challenges surrounding natural capital data.

The project aims to identifying business needs around natural capital data, identify actions required by the natural capital data system, create a natural capital toolkit and build capacity for natural capital data users.



Through interactive polling software, attendees participated offering their experiences of the opportunities and challenges surrounding the data information flow. This included:

- Greatest data barriers: Data gaps (28%), data interpretation (20%), and lack of standardization (19%).
- Other data issues: Time frequency and capturing the velocity of change, open source data, and transparency in the assumptions behind the data.
- What kind of natural capital data is needed: Stock and flows, biodiversity, soil carbon and data that is 'good enough'.

1.6 Pulling the Strings Together

The final panel built on the sessions that took place at the World Forum including the Government Dialogue Program, the Natural Capital Protocol's country level applications, and the launch of the 'Combining Forces on Natural Capital' statement, and program, with the panel discussing how best to build further collaboration between natural capital activities at the national, local and private sector levels.

The session touched on the capacity for the Sustainable Development Goals to mutually reinforce the importance of natural capital approaches, as well as other systems change movements such as the circular economy.

1.7 Next Steps

After a day of productive natural capital discussion, Jonny Hughes closed the Day of Collaboration, encouraging continued harmonization and collaboration in our efforts to make natural capital thinking an intuitive and accepted practices in organizations.

The Coalition hopes to make the Collaboration Day an annual event.