

STOCKHOLM 2026

SIDE EVENT PROGRAM

24 – 25 AUGUST

HAYMARKET SCANDIC HOTEL HÖTORGET 13-15



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

DAY 1 & 2 – 24 & 25 AUGUST

SCALING INVESTMENTS IN NATURE FOR WATER

Sessions exploring the advances and challenges in scaling Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) for water security.

Sessions will be organised around five key recommendations for scaling NbS for water security as outlined in the 2025 State of Investment in NbS for Water Security report.

DAY 2 – 25 AUGUST

WATERLOGUES

Waterlogues event exploring what sustains collective action platforms over time.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

DAY 1 – 24 AUGUST

- 08:30 – 09:00 Introduction and Framing from Doubling Down on Nature: State of Investment in Nature-based Solutions for Water Security
- 09:00 – 10:30 Mobilizing Tariff Funding for NbS: Case Studies from Southern Africa and Latin America.
- 10:45 – 11:45 Beyond Projects: Financing the Platforms that Scale Nature for Water
- 12:30 – 13:30 Introducing the Water Stewardship Project Accelerator (WSPA)
- 13:45 – 14:45 From Pilots to Scale: Lessons from the Living Danube Partnership
- 15:00 – 16:30 Freshwater Challenge: Connecting Public and Private Action for Freshwater
- 16:30 – 17:00 Wrap-up of the Day and Informal Networking



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

DAY 2 – 25 AUGUST

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| 09:00 – 10:30 | Strengthening Catchment Resilience Through Nature-based Solutions: Partnerships for Drinking Water Security |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | NbS Sessions Wrap-Up & Discussion |
| 11:30 – 15:30 | Stockholm Waterlogue
Beyond Funding: What Sustains Collective Action |





SPACE IS LIMITED...

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND

**DETAILED SESSION INFORMATION CAN
BE FOUND ON THE NEXT SHEETS →**



SESSION DETAILS

DAY 1 – 24 AUGUST

INTRODUCTION AND FRAMING FROM DOUBLING DOWN ON NATURE: STATE OF INVESTMENT IN NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR WATER SECURITY

08:30 - 09:00

(FOREST TRENDS, TNC & WWF)

Investment in nature-based solutions (NbS) for water security has grown rapidly over the past decade. NbS are increasingly recognized as essential complements to built infrastructure—supporting water security while also advancing climate resilience, biodiversity, and livelihoods.

The 2025 report, *Doubling Down on Nature – the State of Investment for Water Security*, brought together water and nature thought leaders and practitioners to survey trends in investment in NbS for water security and develop broad solutions for scaling NbS to advance water security globally. This introductory session highlights progress and challenges to date and puts the day's sessions into the context of 5 key report recommendations: (1) building reliable and resilient revenue models; (2) strengthening policy and planning for long-term impact; (3) growing and steering private investment to highest-value use; (4) strengthening delivery systems and the evidence base; and (5) empowering Indigenous and local leadership.

SESSION DETAILS

DAY 1 – 24 AUGUST

MOBILIZING TARIFF FUNDING FOR NBS: CASE STUDIES FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA

09:30 - 10:30

(FOREST TRENDS & TNC)

Mountains and highlands serve as natural “water towers”, storing and regulating water essential for water security, biodiversity, and community resilience. In this panel and interactive session, participants will preview a new Coalition designed to mobilize sustainable funding (i.e. tariffs / taxes) for nature-based solutions followed by case studies that highlight the opportunities and challenges with implementing tariffs, in practice. Participants will discuss the viability and use case of the Water Towers Coalition, the role of water utility tariffs in scaling NbS, and their opportunities and limitations. Back in plenary, Forest Trends and The Nature Conservancy will moderate a group discussion and offer opportunities for participants to stay involved.

SESSION DETAILS

DAY 1 – 24 AUGUST

BEYOND PROJECTS: FINANCING THE PLATFORMS THAT SCALE NATURE FOR WATER

10:45 - 11:45

(WWF, GLOBESCAN & EARTH FINANCE)

Collective action has become central to tackling shared water challenges, yet one of the biggest barriers remains surprisingly simple: we still know how to finance projects better than we know how to finance the platforms that make collective action work. This session explores why current funding approaches are struggling to deliver the scale and continuity needed for lasting impact and introduces emerging thinking on collaborative financing models that could help unlock greater investment in nature for water.

Drawing on new global research and a preview of forthcoming WWF and Earth Finance work, the session will explore practical ideas for funding governance, coordinating portfolios of projects, and creating more durable financial models for collective action.

SESSION DETAILS

DAY 1 – 24 AUGUST

INTRODUCING THE WATER STEWARDSHIP PROJECT ACCELERATOR (WSPA)

12:30 - 13:30

(LIMNOTECH, GWP AND NOVERRAM)

Launched by LimnoTech and strategic partners, the WSPA is an initiative that takes water stewardship projects from concept to bankable, verifiable action. We address the urgent need for measurable water impact with a pipeline of curated, high-integrity projects ready for investment and quantified using rigorous frameworks like VWBA, WQBA, and BioBA.

WSPA is built around four stakeholders: Corporates get a credible, de-risked way to meet water stewardship commitments with outcomes they can report and verify. Public sector partners gain a mechanism to attract private capital toward priority basins and align with local, regional, and national water security goals. Communities see real investment land in the watersheds they depend on with local benefit and engagement built into project design from day one. And the environment gets restored flows, cleaner water, and healthier ecosystems.

At this launch, we will introduce WSPA to the global water community, share the opportunities the WSPA can help deliver, and open the door to new partners. We invite implementers, funders, corporates, public agencies, and NGOs to join us to building long-term water resilience through accelerated action and catalytic investments in nature-based, agricultural, and technology solutions.

SESSION DETAILS

DAY 1 – 24 AUGUST

FROM PILOTS TO SCALE: LESSONS FROM THE LIVING DANUBE PARTNERSHIP

13:45 - 14:45

(WWF CEE & COCA COLA FOUNDATION)

The Living Danube Partnership is a unique cross-sector collaboration that unites WWF-CEE, The Coca-Cola Foundation, and various stakeholders to improve watershed health in the Danube basin. Since its establishment in 2014, the Partnership has evolved from a narrow focus on wetland restoration toward a broader platform for engagement for promoting collective action for nature-based solutions and water stewardship.

To date, the Living Danube Partnership has restored well over 5,500 hectares of rivers and wetlands and leveraged more than €20 million in support for river and wetland restoration across seven countries of Central and Eastern Europe, including Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Ukraine.

This session will reflect on the recommendations of the State of Investment in Nature-based Solutions for Water Security report against the practical experience from the Living Danube Partnership, highlighting achievements but also persisting challenges.

SESSION DETAILS

DAY 1 – 24 AUGUST

FRESHWATER CHALLENGE: CONNECTING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ACTION FOR FRESHWATER

15:00 - 16:30

(WWF, TNC, WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL, CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL, UNEP AND IUCN)

Governments and businesses both have an essential role to play in restoring and protecting freshwater ecosystems, but too often they work in parallel rather than together. As countries develop national freshwater priorities and businesses increase investment in water stewardship and collective action, there is a growing need to better align these efforts.

This session will explore how the Freshwater Challenge can help connect public and private action to accelerate freshwater conservation and restoration. Drawing on experiences from Freshwater Challenge countries, Business Supporters and partners, participants will discuss practical approaches for aligning corporate action with country priorities, strengthening collective action, and unlocking more effective collaboration at basin scale.

SESSION DETAILS

DAY 2 – 25 AUGUST

STRENGTHENING CATCHMENT RESILIENCE THROUGH NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS: PARTNERSHIPS FOR DRINKING WATER SECURITY

09:00 - 10:30

(WATER WORX AND BLUE DEAL)

How can stronger partnerships between utilities, catchment management authorities and communities improve long-term water security for drinking water and other uses? This interactive session shares practical experiences from Ethiopia, highlighting the role of nature-based solutions and opportunities for institutional anchoring. Through insights from utility and water authority managers and through peer exchange, participants will explore barriers, lessons learned, and actionable strategies for building climate-resilient water systems.

STOCKHOLM
WATERLOGUES
WORKING TO SCALE IMPACT
25 AUGUST 2026

25 AUGUST 2025
11:30 - 15:30

REGISTER

BEYOND FUNDING: WHAT SUSTAINS COLLECTIVE ACTION

11:30 - 15:30

This dialogue will explore how collective action is increasingly recognised as essential for addressing shared water challenges. But while much attention has been given to how partnerships are launched and financed, far less has been explored about what keeps them alive. As priorities shift, leadership changes and funding cycles come and go, many collaborative efforts lose momentum. This interactive Waterlogues will explore what enables collective action to endure over time—from the relationships and governance that build trust to the value, motivations and incentives that keep organisations engaged. Together, we'll examine how we can design collective action platforms that are not only successful at starting, but capable of delivering lasting impact.