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# THE BRIDGE



Sustainable  
Finance  
Geneva

**WHERE FINANCE MEETS IMPACT**

NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2022

## SPECIAL EDITION ON NATURE



in collaboration with  NATURE  
FINANCE

When those first leaves turn from green to orange, we know that summer is on its way out and autumn is on its way in. Birds begin their long migrations south, and we migrate back to the office for a busy fall ahead. Nature is an integral part of our lives in big and small ways, and nature is under threat. According to WWF, the world has seen a 68% drop in mammal, bird, fish, reptile, and amphibian populations since 1970. Only 18% of the world's forests are protected from deforestation and over 420 million hectares of forest have been lost since 1990.

Finance has an important role to play - on both the risk and opportunity side. Nature-related financial risks are material and there are efforts to better quantify, understand and disclose them. In addition, investment in natural capital and ecosystem services is becoming a growing area of opportunity. That's why we partnered with NatureFinance on this special edition of our SFG newsletter.

We hope you will join us at Building Bridges 2022 to further discuss nature finance and a wide range of other topics crucial to the future of sustainable finance!

Sandrine Salerno  
Directrice, SFG

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## Interview of the month: Simon Zadek



"100% of our GDP is 100% dependent on nature."

*Simon Zadek will be the Executive Director of the soon-to-be-launched NatureFinance.*

This month we spoke with Dr. Simon Zadek, soon to be the first Executive Director of NatureFinance, the next phase of the [Finance for Biodiversity Initiative \(F4B\)](#) that will be launched at Building Bridges 2022. Core to our discussion was how best to scale market-shaping policies, innovation, and citizen action to make nature count in global finance. We also discussed how the unique Geneva and Swiss ecosystems are creating a global centre of excellence in nature finance.

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### ● What's happening at SFG?

#### **// Building Bridges Program Now Live**

The Building Bridges 2022 program was launched last week. This edition will

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## // Building Bridges September Webinars

Building Bridges will be running a series of webinars in the lead-up to the 2022 edition:

- [Sept 15](#) - Putting the S in ESG
- [Sept 20](#) - Integrating Biodiversity in Asset Management (by AMAS)
- [Sept 29](#) - Financing a Secure and Clean Energy System



*Mangroves are a crucial nature-based solution for protecting against storm surges.*

## ● Coming Up

### NATURE EVENT HIGHLIGHTS AT BUILDING BRIDGES 2022

// 4 October | Markets for Nature: Restoring Biodiversity via Nature-Based Solutions

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for human wellbeing. This event will discuss new financing mechanisms that can channel resources to support nature-based solutions and biodiversity restoration. [Learn More](#)

### // 5 October | NatureFinance – The Next Wave Launch Event

Nature-related finance is rising up the policy agenda with unprecedented speed. The visibility of nature-related risks and investment opportunities is growing. Conserving and harnessing nature is a keystone to any successful strategy in addressing climate and food security challenges, as well as the broader sustainable development agenda. During The Next Wave, leaders from the public, private, UN, international and indigenous communities will discuss how the global nature-finance ecosystem is scaling advocacy, market-shaping and innovative activities to make nature count in global finance, and how the unique Geneva and broader Swiss ecosystem can help power these advances to become a global centre of excellence in nature finance.

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### // 6 October | How Big Platforms Develop Green Digital User Journeys

During this session, each speaker will focus on one part of their green journey and share their key lessons & take-aways in identifying market opportunities, developing the right narratives & incentives; and taking advantage of networks and partnerships. [Learn More](#)

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## ● Sustainable Finance News

**Legitimate investors are financing environmental crime.** Financial institutions often invest in nature-dependent sectors, the profitability of which can be increased through environmental crimes. While the investments may technically be legal, if the returns are derived from criminal activity, they amount to laundered money – and regulators should treat them accordingly. // [Project Syndicate](#)

**Losing nature is pushing some nations closer to financial bankruptcy.** The world's first biodiversity-adjusted sovereign credit ratings show the destruction of nature is driving downgrades in countries' credit ratings, debt crises, and soaring borrowing

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increase inflation — all of which would hurt ordinary workers the most. // [Study Finds](#)

**How are Nature Markets being discussed in the media?** Did you know that in May this year, the Madras High Court in India granted nature equal legal status to humans? Or that the global economy could lose as much as \$2.7 trn a year by 2030 if countries 'continue to destroy biodiversity'? Themes such as the legal personhood of nature, nature investing, indigenous community stewardship and biodiversity credit markets are increasingly covered in the global media. // [Nature Markets](#)



Produced in partnership with the new media on international development and cooperation, [Geneva Solutions](#).

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Contact us at [info@sfgeneva.org](mailto:info@sfgeneva.org)

Have a good day and keep an eye out for our **next newsletter 11 January 2022**.

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