

CATERPILLAR®



Restoring Natural Infrastructure Summit

November 4, 2015

New York City

Restoring Natural Infrastructure Summit

Wednesday, November 4, 2015
12:30 to 4:30pm

Grand Hyatt New York
109 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017

Participation by invitation only

In keeping with our core value of Sustainability, Caterpillar Inc. and key partners will lead a summit of technical, business and policy experts focused on the need, business case and policies required to expand the restoration of degraded natural infrastructure.

The gathering of thought leaders from the fields of engineering, construction, finance, science and policy will move the topic of restoring natural infrastructure to the forefront by exploring the significant economic, environmental and social impacts associated with land degradation and examining business models and strategic actions that can be implemented to address the issue.

DEFINING THE OPPORTUNITY

The Land Degradation Problem

According to the United Nations, over 25% of the earth's lands are considered to be "highly degraded" due to poor management practices, that have resulted in deforestation, desertification, wetland destruction, severe erosion, and contamination – all leading to a catastrophic loss of biodiversity and depleted crop productivity. Additionally, coastal resilience has been compromised due to the loss of various natural features such as reefs and coastal wetlands. Land degradation also contributes greatly to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate change. As lands lose their vegetation, the carbon tied up in plant biomass decays and is released to the atmosphere. Land degradation has contributed billions of tons of CO₂ to the atmosphere historically and, unfortunately, the trend continues today.

The Natural Infrastructure Restoration Opportunity

Restoring natural infrastructure offers huge potential for reestablishing ecosystem health, biodiversity, land productivity and coastal resilience. It also offers the most productive option for sequestering carbon to mitigate climate change potential. A recent McKinsey study ranks land use strategies as the strongest lever for GHG abatement, surpassing energy strategies. While multiple projects have been undertaken globally to restore natural infrastructure – including work with wetlands, coastal regions, forests, prairies and agricultural lands – progress remains slow and a coordinated effort is needed to advance the entire value chain.

Secure Your Attendance Today

Participation in the Summit is by invitation only. To learn more, request an invitation or suggest a thought leader for participation, contact:

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SUMMIT AGENDA (In development; subject to change)

The Summit will be organized around three discussion panels comprised of key technical and business experts.

12:00pm Registration

12:30pm Welcome

12:45pm Panel Discussion: The Science Case for Restoring Natural Infrastructure

Topics for Discussion:

- What are the contributions made by ecosystems (wetlands, dry forests, tropical forests)?
- How big is the land degradation problem (area, geography, impacted ecosystems)?
- How has land degradation contributed to losses in biodiversity, ecosystem services, agricultural productivity, water quality, coastal resilience, etc.?
- How has/does land degradation contribute to GHG emissions and climate change?
- How can ecosystems be used to improve the broader global carbon cycle?
- What global opportunities offer the highest potential geographically and scientifically?

1:30pm Break

1:45pm Panel Discussion: Business Fundamentals for Restoring Natural Infrastructure

Topics for Discussion:

- Where are restoration projects currently happening? Who is leading them?
- Where have aggressive plans and goals for restoration been established?
- What are the barriers that prevent scale-up from happening?
- How do we frame the economic case? Where are the value pools?
- How do we unlock the creativity of individuals, communities, and corporations?
- How do we attract capital at appropriate scale?

2:45pm Break

3:00pm Participatory Session: Policies, Business Models and Financing Solutions Needed to Expand the Natural Infrastructure Market

Topics for Discussion:

- What business models and financing solutions are best for incubating and launching ventures with high scale-up potential?
- Who are the partner companies that can lead this initiative?
- What is the role of governments? Which agencies?
- What is the role of universities?
- What gaps currently exist?
- How do we foster innovation and accelerate learning?
- What sectors/innovation could this be modeled after?
- What would an effective pilot program look like?
- Who would participate and lead?
- What steps are needed to advance the whole value chain?

4:15pm Closing Remarks

4:30 – 5:00pm Networking

SUMMIT GOALS

Goals for the Summit include the following:

- Raise awareness regarding the needs and benefits of restoring natural infrastructure;
- Raise awareness regarding natural infrastructure’s potential for productively sequestering carbon in soils, vegetation, and ecosystems;
- Expand the climate change conversation beyond energy;
- Expand dialogue with key constituents on the business case for restoring natural infrastructure;
- Establish next steps required to develop a process for moving forward; and
- Initiate a participatory strategy for accomplishing the goals.

PROPOSED OUTCOMES

This gathering of thought leaders and decision makers will produce recommendations for key actions needed to increase the market for natural infrastructure restoration.

These recommendations will be presented to key public and private sector decision makers as we move the topic of restoring natural infrastructure to the forefront.

