

AlterNet Conference 2022

Session proposal

Name and Institutions of Chairs and Co-Chairs

- Philip Roche
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Session title

- Biodiversity and Ecological health

Session abstract

Changes in land and sea use, overexploitation, climate change, pollution and invasive alien species mean that nature is rapidly disappearing, posing significant challenges to human and ecosystem health. The concepts of ecological health and ecosystem health are used and linked to an anthropocentric view of nature, either as the state of the ecosystem in response to human pressures and disturbances, or as the ability to continue to provide services to people. The health of an ecosystem is frequently described as the state or condition in which its dynamic attributes are expressed within normal ranges of activity. Among the characteristics of ecosystems, biodiversity is one of the most widely referred to. However, biodiversity is a complex concept that encompasses several levels and scales of organisation. In this session we want to address issues related to the notions of ecological and ecosystem health and their relationship to biodiversity in a broad sense. Examples from all ecosystems (terrestrial, freshwater, marine) are welcome and all components of biodiversity could be addressed (genetic, specific, functional, community, landscape...). The session will combine scientific presentations related to the topic of the session and a debate with the speakers and participants aiming to answer the three main questions developed above. At the end, we aim to produce a statement on biodiversity and health.

- **Main Workshop session theme:** Pathways linking Biodiversity and Ecological health

This session will be framed around three main questions:

- Is biodiversity at all scales related to ecological health?
- how can we better operationalise the concept of Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBV) and ecological health?
- how can we better reflect the interlinks and dependencies between biodiversity and ecosystems approaches to health and resilience?

Type of session: presentation, workshop, other

- Blended: 8 x 15 min presentations + 5 min questions + 1h panel discussion and synthesis.
- The three questions will be provided to all participants in advance and will be the core themes for the workshop
- Session is open for submissions

Intended outputs

- Session summary document which may form the core of a perspective paper
- Key outcomes AlterNet webpage and media

Duration (3 hours)