

**Title of Session:**

Transformative Change for the Co-Creation of Nature Restoration

**Keynote** (plenary session 9:00 to 10:00) Vera Helene Hausner [vera.hausner@uit.no](mailto:vera.hausner@uit.no) - on Theory of change

**Description:**

As global biodiversity continues to decline at an alarming rate, the need for transformative approaches to nature restoration has never been more urgent. This session will explore how diverse stakeholders—scientists, policymakers, local communities, and industry—can collaborate to foster innovative, inclusive, and actionable strategies for restoring ecosystems, therefore retrieving their functions, services and biodiversity. The emphasis is on co-creation: a process in which all participants contribute to decision-making, knowledge-sharing, and the development of solutions that are grounded in both scientific expertise and local knowledge.

This session will focus on four themes:

1. The drivers and barriers to achieving transformative change in biodiversity restoration.
2. Successful examples of multi-stakeholder partnerships that have led to measurable ecological social, and economic outcomes.
3. Tools and frameworks that support the co-creation process in nature restoration efforts.
4. Aligning local restoration efforts with broader international commitments, such as the EU Biodiversity Strategy, the UN Decade on Ecosystems Restoration and the EU Nature Restoration Law.

Attendees will be encouraged to share their experiences, challenges, and insights during interactive discussions. The session aims to bridge gaps between theory and practice, bringing new perspectives on scaling up restoration projects while considering the needs of both biodiversity and human communities.

**Chair:** Mihai Adamescu, University of Bucharest, Research Center in Systems Ecology and Sustainability

**Co-chairs:** Ana Lillebø, University of Aveiro; Ana Sousa, University of Aveiro; Maurice Hofmann AlterNet

**Duration:**

2 hours and 40 minutes

**Format:**

This session will include a mix of expert presentations, interactive panel discussions, and a workshop. (this requires a full day, e.g. presentations + panel discussion e the morning and the WS in the afternoon; and we assume that it will be a full day). The workshop component will enable participants to explore the practical challenges of co-creating nature restoration projects in small groups, with real-world case studies guiding the discussions, and to reflect on the four themes of the session. Participants are invited to submit an abstract within one of the four teams, for a max 10 min presentation, and/or to register for the WS.