

# Putting nature on a path to recovery – innovations in ecosystem restoration

04 – 08 August 2025  
International Academy for Nature  
Conservation Isle of Vilm

## AGENDA



## Background and objectives

---

The series of seminars on nature conservation in development cooperation has been held at the International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm since 1999.

Amidst accelerating environmental degradation and climate change, ecosystem restoration has become a cornerstone for reestablishing natural balance and resilience. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) underscores the urgency to recover degraded landscapes, enhance biodiversity, and secure vital ecosystem services. This seminar explores innovations in restoration ecology, emphasizing nature-based solutions, rewilding strategies, and community-led initiatives that can transform degraded environments into thriving, resilient ecosystems. It offers a holistic perspective on restoring nature's functions and services. With an emphasis on turning policy into practice, the seminar will highlight successful examples of restoration initiatives from around the world.

Participants will

- Gain a comprehensive overview of current global trends, challenges, and opportunities in ecosystem restoration.
- Expand their knowledge of restoration techniques and approaches.
- Understand the role of policy frameworks and financial mechanisms in supporting restoration initiatives.
- Examine the importance of community engagement in driving successful restoration efforts.
- Discuss and develop practical strategies for integrating scientific, policy, and local perspectives to accelerate ecosystem recovery.

## Organiser

---

**Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) & KfW (Entwicklungsbank)** on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ),

**International Academy for Nature Conservation**, Isle of Vilm, of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN).

## Contact

---

**Organisation:** Nada Rohloff (nada.rohloff@bfn.de)

**Content:** Isabel Renner (isabelrenner@posteo.de)

*Cover picture: © U. Euler*

---

## Programme

---

### URL:

<https://bf-nbund.webex.com/bfn-bund-en/j.php?MTID=m9543442bbe119621bca109d280de9683>

### Sunday, 03.08.2025

Arrival      Ferry crossings from port Lauterbach/Mole  
at 16:10, 17:10, 18:10 and 19:10

18:30      *Dinner*

19:30      **Welcome & introduction**  
BfN, GIZ, KfW

### Monday, 04.08.2025

*From 07:30 Breakfast*

### Session I: Global trends and restoration targets

09:00      **Check-in**  
Isabel Renner, Facilitation

09:45      **Restoration – posing the challenge**  
Natalia Alekseeva, UN Decade Secretariat **online**

10:30      *Coffee break*

11:00      **Restoring nature, restoring our future: From global goals to local gains**  
Benjamin Kupilas, Ecologic Institute **online**

11:45      **Reflect & connect**

12:30      *Lunch*

13:30      **Guided tour Vilm**  
Thomas Göttert, BfN

15:00      *Coffee break*

15:30      **What we need to understand from restoration ecology**  
Emmanuela Weidlich, Leuphana University Lüneburg

---

16:30	<b>Ecosystem restoration in German DC. An overview.</b> Sandra Gmelin, KfW & Dorothee Nett, GIZ
-------	--

---

17:30	<b>Wrap-up</b>
-------	----------------

---

18:00	<i>Dinner</i>
-------	---------------

---

## Tuesday, 05.08.2025

---

07:30	<i>Breakfast</i>
-------	------------------

---

09:00	<b>Check-in</b>
-------	-----------------

---

## Session II: Restoration in practice

---

09:15	<b>How to restore ecosystems: From principles to practice</b> Emmanuela Weidlich, Leuphana University Lüneburg
-------	---

---

09:45	<b>Discussion</b>
-------	-------------------

---

10:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
-------	---------------------

---

11:00	<b>Interactive session on M&amp;E of ecosystem restoration</b> Linus Knetsch (GIZ)
-------	---

---

12:30	<i>Lunch</i>
-------	--------------

---

14:00	<b>Marketplace</b> Insights and experiences from participants
-------	--

---

15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
-------	---------------------

---

16:00	<b>Marketplace cont'd and feedback</b>
-------	--

---

17:30	<b>Wrap-up</b>
-------	----------------

---

18:00	<i>Dinner</i>
-------	---------------

---

## Wednesday, 06.08.2025

---

07:30	<i>Breakfast</i>
-------	------------------

---

09:00	<b>Check-in</b>
-------	-----------------



09:15	<b>Forest Landscape Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM)</b> Theresa Fuhrmann, IUCN <a href="#">online</a>
10:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00	<b>Nature Restoration Law in Germany: Implementation in marine ecosystems and the example of returning the European flat oyster to the German North Sea</b> Kevin Dietz and Linda Westphal (BfN)
12:30	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>Session III: Restoration policy and finance</b>	
14:00	Introduction
14:30	<b>The politics of ecosystem restoration</b> <a href="#">online panel</a> with Bethanie Walder (SER), Prof. Emille Boulot (University of Tasmania) and Apoorva Bose (GLI)
16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:30	<b>Group discussion and reflection</b>
17:30	<b>Wrap-up</b>
18:00	<i>Dinner</i>

## Thursday, 07.08.2025

07:30	<i>Breakfast</i>
09:00	<b>Check-in</b>
09:15	<b>State of Finance for Ecosystem Restoration</b> <a href="#">online panel</a> with Ivo Mulder (UNEP), Sara Löfqvist (ETH Zürich) and Fidel Chiriboga (Biodiversity Alliance, CIAT)
10:30	<i>Coffee break</i>

## Session IV: Restoration of peatlands and field trip

11:00	<b>Peatland restoration</b> Jan Peters (Michael Succow Foundation for the Protection of Nature)
-------	--

12:05	<i>Departure of ferry from Vilm</i>
13:00	<b>Field trip to Mannhagener Moor</b>
17:00	<i>Departure of ferry to Vilm</i>
19:00	<b>BBQ in Vilm harbour</b>

### Friday, 08.08.2025

07:30	<i>Breakfast</i>
09:00	<b>Check-in</b>
09:15	<b>Conclusions and takeaways</b>
10:00	<b>Evaluation, feedback &amp; closing</b> GIZ, KfW, BfN
11:00	<b>Departure of ferry (from Vilm)</b>

### International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm: A platform for dialogue

The INA is a centre for capacity building and dialogue on issues with relevance to nature conservation on national and international level. The unique natural setting of the academy and the transdisciplinary, international orientation of various workshops have attracted around 50,000 people from 150 countries to Vilm since the establishment of the INA in 1990.

In cooperation with other organisations, the INA provides about 60 workshops, retreats, conferences and training events each year on national and international nature conservation topics.

More information: <http://www.bfn.de/en/ina>