

The National Nature-based Solutions Policy Forum 2024

Panel Summary: Equity and Justice

Speakers:

- Dr. Margot Brown, Senior Vice President, Justice and Equity, Environmental Defense Fund
- Dr. Scott Hemmerling, Senior Research Scientist, The Water Institute
- Dr. Renato Molina, Assistant Professor, Environmental and Resource Economics, University of Miami
- Kristie Trousdale, Deputy Director, Children's Environmental Health Network

Facilitator:

- Valerie Black, General Counsel and Legal Policy Researcher, The Water Institute

Summary:

Dr. Margot Brown from EDF emphasized the importance of compensating community experts and highlighted EDF's Environmental Justice Vision & Principles. The panel underscored the need for both technical and local knowledge in community-based and regenerative Nature-Based Solutions (NBS). It emphasized the importance of modeling community needs and ensuring projects align with community wants and needs. The Water Institute's intentional community inclusion in NBS design raised questions about community engagement, job creation, and adaptive management. Dr. Renato Molina's research on NBS as natural capital highlighted unintended consequences such as property value increase and displacement, suggesting co-design as a potential solution. The panel discussed partnerships between big agencies like EDF and grassroots organizations and proposed collaborating with local institutions embedded within communities.