



Call for Contributions

# **Nature-Inspired Finance: Innovations in Biodiversity Finance**

An edited collection to be published by Palgrave Macmillan

**Co-edited by:**

Thomas Walker, PhD

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The John Molson School of Business and the Jacques Ménard - BMO Centre for Capital Markets at Concordia University, the Sustainable Finance Research Centre at Corvinus University of Budapest, and the Institute for Sustainable Finance kindly invite contributions to the edited book collection, entitled *Nature-Inspired Finance: Innovations in Biodiversity Finance*, to be published by **Palgrave Macmillan**.

**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

*Nature-Inspired Finance* offers an exploration of the cutting-edge and innovative financial mechanisms, nature-based solutions, and biomimicry concepts that can address the global challenge of biodiversity loss. Focusing on the future, it examines possible venues through which corporations, financial institutions, and regulators can slow down or halt biodiversity loss through taking inspiration from nature itself. It also continues the groundbreaking research of nature-inspired solutions, first introduced in our forthcoming book *Biodiversity Finance – The Economic, Operational, and Societal Impacts of Biodiversity Loss* (Springer Nature, 2025), which brings the concept of biomimicry into the world of finance. The book stands out for its comprehensive coverage, delving into the various avenues of state-of-the-art solutions with applicability across industries and geographical regions to target a multitude of challenges including global warming, biodiversity loss, natural disasters, and food and water scarcity. Unlike prior publications, our project bridges theory and practice by grounding the forward-looking possibilities in real-world examples and case studies, illustrating how nature-inspired financial solutions can be used across industries, economies, and financial systems globally.

Structured strategically, *Nature-Inspired Finance* guides readers through a logical progression of topics, starting from understanding the novel concept of using biomimicry within finance and detailing the innovative financial approaches being implemented to address biodiversity loss to exploring the potential impacts within economics, policy landscapes, and various sectors as well as learning from successful case studies. Each chapter incorporates clear explanations, illustrative examples, data-driven analyses, and actionable recommendations, making the content accessible and relevant to a diverse audience including students, educators, researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and concerned citizens.

The book meets a range of needs, catering to professionals seeking to integrate nature-inspired and nature-based solutions into financial decision-making processes, policymakers crafting effective ecological policies, investors aligning their portfolios with sustainability goals, educators teaching about the intersections of nature and economics, and citizens eager to learn more about effective solutions to biodiversity loss. By combining comprehensive coverage, real-world relevance, strategic organization, and ability to meet diverse needs, *Nature-Inspired Finance* serves as an indispensable

resource for those committed to fostering both environmental stewardship and financial sustainability in an increasingly interconnected world.

**CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS:**

Given the global nature of our book's subject matter, the co-editors welcome contributions from scholars and industry experts around the world who work at the intersection of finance, environmental sciences, and sustainability. The contributions will provide a comprehensive overview and critical analysis of innovative research and implementation of nature-inspired solutions currently addressing the global challenge of biodiversity loss. Each chapter will address the applicability of nature-inspired finance or other forward-thinking solutions to combat biodiversity loss.

Due to the interconnected and intricate nature of the topic, the editors encourage contributions that take a multidisciplinary and transnational approach. Furthermore, we seek chapters that incorporate case studies or comparative studies to illustrate the evolving nature of biodiversity finance. To ensure that the concerns of combating threats to biodiversity across countries and industries are adequately considered, we encourage authors to critically analyze the relevance of their contributions at different levels – temporal, geographic, and sectoral. By doing so, authors will be able to reflect upon the possible solutions to biodiversity loss across different contexts and scales.

**Submitted chapters must be original and exclusively prepared for the book, with no part of the article having been published elsewhere.** Finally, although the book can be used as a reference book in academic courses, it is not explicitly organized as a textbook.

**POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR CHAPTERS:****1. INTRODUCTION**

- Introduction to the book (background, objectives, and contributions)
- Understanding nature-inspired finance
  - Definition of nature-inspired finance and its importance
  - A literature review on biodiversity finance
  - Current trends and projections

**2. BIOMIMICRY IN FINANCE**

- An introduction to biomimicry
- Nature-inspired solutions for biodiversity loss
- Existing case studies and potential future avenues

**3. THE ECONOMICS OF BIODIVERSITY**

- Innovative valuation methodologies
- Economic benefits of biodiversity

- New financial mechanisms for closing the funding gap
  - Sustainability linked bonds
  - Payments for ecosystem services
  - Biodiversity credit systems
- 4. **RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT**
  - Financial risks associated with biodiversity loss
  - Integrating nature-inspired finance into risk assessment frameworks
  - Cutting-edge strategies for managing biodiversity related risks
- 5. **POLICY, REGULATION, AND CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY**
  - ESG investing and biodiversity conservation
    - Opportunities and challenges for biodiversity-focused investments
  - The future of conventions and agreements on biodiversity conservation
    - Strategies and action plans
    - Regulatory frameworks and national strategies
  - Corporate sustainability initiatives
    - New biodiversity conservation practices in business operations
    - Reporting and disclosure frameworks
- 6. **NATURE-INSPIRED SOLUTIONS AT WORK**
  - Circular economy practices
  - Nature-based solutions
  - Disaster risk solutions
  - Indigenous epistemologies
- 7. **CONCLUSIONS**
  - Conclusions and lessons learned
  - Opportunities for innovation and collaboration

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

We currently anticipate the following timeline for the project:

- Abstract and CV submission deadline – **November 30, 2025**
- Selection of abstracts and notification to successful contributors – **December 31, 2025**
- After December 2025, the publisher's release forms will be forwarded to successful contributors
- Full chapter submission – **February 28, 2026**
- Revised chapter submission – **April 30, 2026**
- Manuscript delivery – **July 31, 2026**
- Publication (tentative date) – **Spring 2027** (tentative)

**GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS:**

Submissions should be written in English using a non-technical writing style. The contributions may include diagrams/illustrations in order to present data, or photographs/figures (all in black & white) to better illustrate the topic of discussion. Submitted chapters should be original and exclusively prepared for the present book. No part of the article should be published elsewhere. Chapters must not exceed 7,000 words (including all references, appendices, biographies, etc.), must use 1.5-line spacing and 12 pt. Times New Roman font, and must use the APA 7th edition reference style.

To conform to the policies of Palgrave Macmillan on AI use (which you can read in full here: <https://www.springernature.com/it/authors/publish-a-book/manuscript-guidelines>) we do not accept AI models as authors of content, we require any use of large language models (LLMs) to be documented in an acknowledgement section, and we do not accept figures created by generative AI. Please note that all chapters will be checked for plagiarism and AI use.

Researchers and practitioners are invited to submit abstracts of no more than 500 words and a CV for each author. Abstract submissions are expected by **November 30, 2025**. Submissions should be sent via email to: [biodiversity.finance@concordia.ca](mailto:biodiversity.finance@concordia.ca)

Authors will be notified about the status of their proposals and will be sent complete chapter guidelines by **December 31, 2025**. Full chapters are expected to be submitted by **February 28, 2026**.

Please note that there are no submission or acceptance fees for the manuscripts.

**ABOUT THE EDITORS:****Thomas Walker<sup>1</sup>**

Thomas Walker is a full professor in the Department of Finance at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada, and serves as executive director of the Institute for Sustainable Finance (ISF). Prior to his academic career, he worked for several years in the German consulting and industrial sector at such firms as Mercedes Benz, Utility Consultants International, Lahmeyer International, Telenet, and KPMG. His research interests are in sustainable finance, banking, emerging risk management, and fintech, and he has published over eighty journal articles and twenty books in these areas. Since 2021, he is the director for the Jacques Ménard - BMO Centre for Capital Markets at Concordia University and the Concordia University Research Chair in Emerging Risk Management (Tier 1).

**Helena Naffa<sup>2</sup>**

Helena Naffa is an associate professor of sustainable finance at Corvinus University of Budapest. She founded and heads the Sustainable Finance Research Centre at Corvinus

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([www.sustainablefinanceresearch.com](http://www.sustainablefinanceresearch.com)) that focuses on empirical research in the field of climate finance, ESG investing, and nature as an investment asset class. Helena worked as a sell-side equity analyst covering the energy sector at UniCredit Bank and Pekao Investment Banking, advised tech startups, and was an equity fund manager at Aegon Asset Management, where she later assumed the role of ESG officer. She combines 16 years of investing and financial market experience with academic research, and university teaching and curriculum development. She was awarded the Green Finance Scientific Grand Award by the Central Bank of Hungary in 2021, and won the ESG Asset Manager of the year award in Hungary in 2022 and 2023.

**Laszlo Zsolnai<sup>3</sup>**

Laszlo Zsolnai is Professor and Director of the Business Ethics Center of Corvinus University of Budapest. He is President of the European SPES Institute in Leuven, Belgium and Associate Member of Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford in the UK. In 2025 he was elected as full member of The Club of Rome.

He was Visiting Professor/Visiting Fellow at the University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, University of California at Berkeley, Georgetown University (Washington, D.C.), University of Richmond (Virginia), Concordia University (Montreal), Bocconi University Milan, University of St. Gallen, Venice International University, and the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies. Laszlo Zsolnai published 35 books and more than 300 papers on the interrelated issues of ethics, business, ecology, and spirituality.

**Simone Donders<sup>4</sup>**

Simone Donders holds an MA in History from Concordia University, Montreal. Her research interests range from Irish country house architecture to biodiversity finance. She has a passion for sustainability studies and supports the team at the Emerging Risks Information Centre (ERIC) as both an editor and research associate.

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