



GLOBAL NATURE POSITIVE SUMMIT

2026 KUMAMOTO JAPAN

Second Global Nature Positive Summit

Kumamoto, Japan 14-16 July 2026

Accelerating private sector and sub-national government action to halt and reverse nature loss.

The Global Nature Positive Summit will focus on accelerating actions to halt and reverse biodiversity loss in line with the Nature Positive global goal and the mission of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), which was agreed by 196 countries in 2022.

Ahead of governments meeting in October 2026 in Yerevan, Armenia for CBD COP17, the Summit aims to signal commitment and progress by showcasing nature positive strategies and outcomes with a particular focus on contributions from the private sector and local governments towards the GBF and its Nature Positive mission.

The Summit aims to attract some 1,000 people including corporate and finance leaders, sub-national governments, scientists, academics and civil society from Japan, the Asia-Pacific region and across the globe who wish to learn and share their progress towards a nature-positive future, the only future that can improve health and resilience of our economy and society.



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DRAFT HIGH-LEVEL PROGRAMME

DAY 1 - Setting the scene for the Summit: discuss what Nature Positive means, why the vision and goal are important for society and the economy, and what it takes to be turned into reality.

MORNING:

Session name	Type of session	Short description
Opening Ceremony	Plenary	Official opening of the Summit with welcoming remarks from organizers and distinguished guests.
Introduction to Nature Positive	Plenary keynotes	An overview of what Nature Positive means, why it is crucial to address the biodiversity crisis, and how it can be delivered in practice across sectors and geographies.
The Role of Business	Plenary panel	Exploring how companies can drive nature-positive transitions through strategy, operations, value chains and innovation, and why corporate leadership is essential.
The Role of Finance	Plenary panel	Examining how financial institutions and investors can shift capital flows toward nature-positive outcomes and manage nature-related risks and opportunities.





DRAFT HIGH-LEVEL PROGRAMME

DAY 1 continued - MORNING:

Session name	Type of session	Short description
The Role of Local Governments	Plenary panel	Discussing how cities, regions and sub-national governments can implement the nature positive vision through policy, planning and partnerships on the ground.
Fireside Chat: Nature Positive Leadership	Plenary	An engaging conversation with global nature positive thought leaders, reflecting on leadership, urgency, responsibility and long-term vision, to conclude the morning plenary.

AFTERNOON:

Session name	Type of session	Short description
Lunch and “Bento Sessions”	Side events	Informal lunchtime presentations and discussions inspired by the Japanese “bento” style, offering concise insights and exchanges. Topics and hosts to be announced at a later stage.
The Business and Social Case for Nature Positive	Plenary panel	Exploring the value proposition of a nature-positive transition for economies and society, including resilience, competitiveness and wellbeing.
Nature Positive Strategies	Plenary panel	How organizations can design and implement credible and effective nature positive strategies, from commitments and targets to delivery and accountability.
Nature Positive, Net Zero and Circularity	Plenary panel	Examining the links between nature positive action, climate mitigation and adaptation, and circular economy approaches.
Fireside Chat: Political and Economic Headwinds	Plenary	A conversation on whether current geopolitical, economic and political challenges are slowing or reshaping progress towards Nature Positive.
Thematic Sessions	Parallel sessions	Parallel sessions dedicated to sectoral, cross-cutting and specific issues relevant to the nature-positive agenda. Themes will be announced at a later stage.

EVENING:

Dinner reception: Evening reception creating space for reflection, dialogue and networking during this cultural event. **(Invitation only)**



DRAFT HIGH-LEVEL PROGRAMME

DAY 2 - Delivering Nature Positive: Tools, Pathways and Places: focus on enablers and solutions to turn the Nature Positive vision and goal into reality, sending a powerful call to action.

MORNING:

Session name	Type of session	Short description
Fireside Chat	Plenary	An engaging conversation to open Day 2, setting the tone for discussions on delivery, innovation and impact. Topic to be defined.
How to Measure Nature Positive?	Plenary panel	How to credibly and practically measure nature-positive outcomes, sharing experiences, methodologies and lessons learned.
How to Communicate Nature Positive?	Plenary panel	Defining what constitutes credible nature-positive statements and claims, and how to communicate progress with integrity and transparency, ensuring accountability and recognition.
The Role of Technology	Plenary panel	Exploring technological innovation and digital solutions that support the delivery, measurement and scaling of nature-positive action.
Thematic Sessions	Parallel sessions	Parallel sessions dedicated to sectoral, cross-cutting and specific issues relevant to the nature-positive agenda. Themes will be announced at a later stage.

AFTERNOON:

Session name	Type of session	Short description
Lunch and “Bento Sessions”	Side events	Informal lunchtime sessions offering short presentations and discussions in a flexible format. Topics and hosts to be announced.
Nature Positive from Value Chains to Land / Seascapes and Jurisdictions	Plenary panel	Defining what nature-positive infrastructure means in practice and how finance and policy can be mobilized to deliver it at scale.
Nature Positive in the Ocean	Plenary panel	Exploring what Nature Positive means in the ocean context and how ocean-positive outcomes can be achieved through policy, business action, finance and innovation.



DRAFT HIGH LEVEL PROGRAMME

DAY 2 continued - AFTERNOON:

Session name	Type of session	Short description
Thematic Sessions	Parallel sessions	Parallel sessions dedicated to sectoral, cross-cutting and specific issues relevant to the nature-positive agenda. Themes will be announced at a later stage.
Closing Ceremony	Plenary	Summary of key messages and outcomes of the Summit, closing reflections and next steps for advancing Nature Positive globally.

EVENING:

Side Events (TBC)

DAY 3 - Kumamoto Landscape Excursion

The prefecture of Kumamoto is a case study for Nature Positive Landscapes. It is a scenic prefecture shaped by dynamic natural forces. It is home to iconic landmarks such as Mount Aso, the Ariake Sea, the Yatsushiro Sea and Arao Higata, a Ramsar Convention designated tidal flat.



Kumamoto is the ideal place to gather minds and pool collective wisdom in pursuit of achieving a Nature Positive future.

Summit Announcement: September 2025

The Summit was announced by the **Nature Positive Initiative, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Japan Committee**, and **ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability Japan**, with the support of the Government of Japan, Kumamoto City, the Nature Conservation Society of Japan (NACS-J), Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), IUCN International, ICLEI International and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). Press Release [here](#).



Summit Organizers: Nature Positive Initiative, IUCN-Japan and ICLEI-Japan

Summit Manager: Nikkei Business Publications, Inc. NIKKEI BP

Venue: [Kumamoto Jo Hall](#), 3-40, Sakuramachi, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto-city, Kumamoto, 860-0805, Japan

To find out more about sponsorship opportunities, please click [here](#). Reach out to the Secretariat on gnps2026sec@pcoworks.jp with further queries and look out for upcoming registration details to attend the Summit and confirmed speakers on July 14-15 [here](#).