



Virtual Workshop

# Financialization of Nature, Green Investments and Biodiversity Conservation: Transformative Change or Veneer for the Status Quo?

14-15 April 2022

Globally, the combining effects of capitalism expansion and anthropocentric development programmes have led to the widespread destruction of natural habitats and to the violation of indigenous peoples and communities' rights, whose livelihoods and self-fulfilment intertwine with the health of territories they inhabit. At present, however, the main actions responding to the “**double crisis**” of the **environment and capitalism** have materialized through the mobilization of more capital, furthering the wider process of **financialization of nature** - a process which capitalizes on natural elements, assigning a property title to natural resources against collective rights over the territory. The unfolding of these trends is amplified by transnational development initiatives that provide the economic, institutional, and material framework needed to promote green investments and finance. The most notable among such schemes is the China-led **Belt and Road Initiative** (henceforth

BRI). Originally aimed at promoting growth across Eurasia through infrastructural development, BRI has been gradually equipped with a portfolio of 'green' projects, incentives, and investments, whose impacts are going to be far-reaching – for both people and nature.

Against this backdrop, this workshop aims at bringing together a community of scholars, practitioners, and activists to question and assess the social-ecological logic and impacts of these new financial mechanisms. This workshop has been designed as a 'collateral' event to the COP15's **Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and ongoing discussion on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**. The workshop's timing is crucial to raise awareness of what scientists have warned could lead to sixth mass extinction and to establish concrete ways to guarantee the functioning of life-sustaining ecosystems in their complexity and against multiple current threats.

## WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

### 14 April 4:30 pm CET Financialization of Nature and Biodiversity Conservation

Panelists

**Jessica Dempsey** and **Audrey Irvine-Broque**, The University of British Columbia

**Natasha Kunesch**, INSPIRE (LSE consultant)

**Andrea Armeni**, Transform finance NGO

**Marc Brightman**, University of Bologna

**Moderator: Giulia Dal Maso**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice and National University of Singapore

### 15 April 9:00 CET

### Perspectives on Green Finance and Investments along the Belt and Road Initiative

Panelists

**Christoph Nedopil**, Green Finance and Development Center at Fudan University

**Elia Apostolopoulou**, Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership

**Eugene Simonov**, Rivers without Boundaries (RwB) Coalition, School of Humanities and Social

Sciences, University of New South Wales Canberra at ADFA  
**Jianyu Zhang**, BRI Green Development Institute

**Moderators: Daniele Brombal** and **Mengmeng Cui**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice and University of Lisbon

### 15 April 11:15 CET

### Territories of life, Green Investment, and Financialisation of Nature

Panelists

**Ameyali Ramos Castillo**, ICCA Consortium

**Ashish Kothari Kalpavriksh**, Radical Ecological Democracy

**Gijs Spoor**, Regen Foundation  
4th speaker tbc

**Moderator: Ali Razmkhah**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice and ICCA Consortium

The workshop will be held online on the 14-15th April and will be co-hosted by the Department of Asian and North African Studies (DSAAM), Ca' Foscari University of Venice, the **CHINGREEN** project, and the ICCA Consortium.

**Workshop scientific committee:**  
**Giulia Dal Maso, Ali Razmkhah,**  
**and Daniele Brombal**