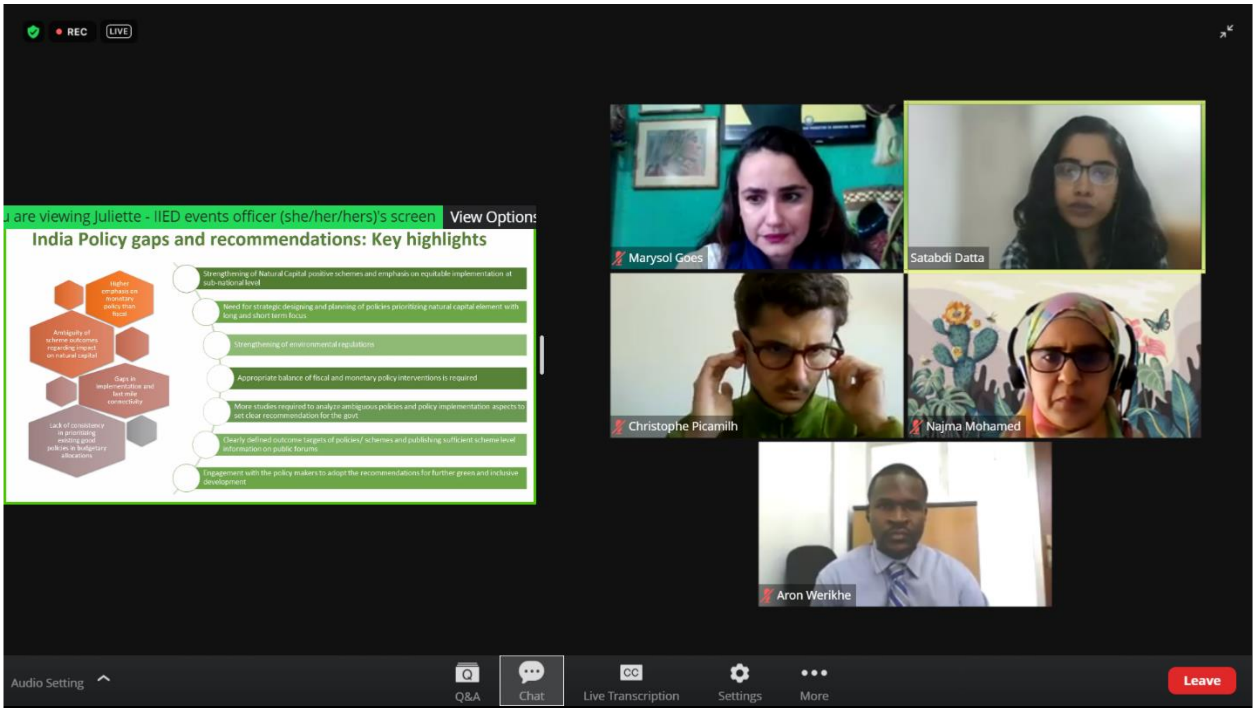

Webinar on “Towards a nature positive economic recovery post COVID-19”

The online event explored how countries can sustain and conserve nature in their COVID-19 recovery strategies to build back fairer, greener and with nature. Over half of global gross domestic product (GDP) is dependent on nature. Yet a staggering one fifth of countries are at risk of their ecosystems collapsing due to a decline in biodiversity and related ecosystem services. More than one billion jobs globally depend on healthy and functioning ecosystems. The degradation of nature is a pressing social, economic and environmental concern, which impacts poor and vulnerable communities. While we have made strides in integrating nature in economic policy, and increasingly in climate policy, for the most part investing in nature and biodiversity remains marginal to economic decision-making, including planning, budgeting and investment processes. The most high-profile economic decision-making currently relates to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite growing evidence that investing in nature is an economic winner, much of the public spending deployed for the COVID-19 recovery has not been adequately green and largely under-invests in nature.

At the IIED Debates event co-hosted with the Green Economy Coalition (GEC), participants heard emerging insights from a global analysis on integrating nature into COVID-19 recovery plans and budgets. By sharing findings from country case studies in Brazil, France, India and Uganda under the 'Economics for Nature' project, the panel discussed tangible nature positive and nature negative actions and recommendations for investing in nature as part of COVID-19 recovery. The Indian case study was presented by Dr. Satabdi Datta on behalf of Development Alternatives.

Through the convening of expert speakers and external stakeholders, IIED brings together an international community to discuss critical issues. The panel discussion was followed by an engaging question answer session directed by the questions posed by the audience.