



NATIONAL
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GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM



moffatt & nichol



National Forum on Nature-based Solutions

March 10-12, 2026

MacQueen Center, 100 Alumni Dr., Mobile, AL 36688

Day 1 - Tuesday March 10th

- 10:00 – 4:00 pm **Field trip to Dauphin Island and Auburn University Shellfish Laboratory site visits (in-person only)**
Sponsored by Moffatt & Nichol
- 5:45 – 6:15 pm **Registration (in-person only)**
- 6:15 – 7:00 pm **Coastside Chat: Temporal Perspectives: Designing NbS for Today and Tomorrow**
Safra Altman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Rachel Gittman, East Carolina University
Moderator: Francis Wiese, Baird
- 7:00 – 8:30 pm **Welcome Reception (in-person only)**
Sponsored by Anchor QEA

Day 2 - Wednesday March 11th

- 8:00 – 9:00 am **Registration (in-person only)**
- 9:00 – 9:15 am **Opening Welcomes**
Stephanie Houser, Gulf Research Program, National Academies
Melissa Forbes, Gulf Research Program, National Academies
Jo Bonner, University of South Alabama
- 9:15 – 9:45 am **Navigating the Policy Landscape for Nature-based Solutions**
Jessie Ritter, National Wildlife Federation
- 9:45 – 10:45 am **Panel 1: From Silos to Solutions: Co-Producing Effective Nature-Based Solutions**
Alissa Farina, City of Miami Office of Resilience and Sustainability
Dan Favre, Greater New Orleans Foundation
Devon Parfait, Environmental Defense Fund
Maya Trotz, University of South Florida
Moderator: Sara Mason, Duke University

10:45 – 11:00 am	Break Sponsored by the Tulane ByWater Institute
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Breakout Session on Understanding when to Utilize Nature-based Solutions across Varying Situations
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch (in-person only) Sponsored by Jacobs
1:00 – 2:15 pm	<u>Lightning Talks: Benefits & Co-Benefits of Nature-based Solutions</u>
2:15 – 3:15 pm	<u>Panel 2: Designing Across Scales: Spatial Considerations for NbS Success</u> <i><u>Amy Bredes</u>, Baird</i> <i><u>Judy Haner</u>, The Nature Conservancy in Alabama</i> <i><u>April Newman</u>, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority</i> <i><u>Heidi Nutters</u>, San Francisco Estuary Partnership</i> <i>Moderator: <u>Steven Bailey</u>, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</i>
3:15 – 3:30 pm	Break Sponsored by HDR, Inc.
3:30 – 4:30 pm	<u>Tech Talks: Innovating with Nature: Tools Driving NbS Forward</u> <i><u>Nick Bourdon</u>, Reef Arches</i> <i><u>Pat Hickey</u>, Jacobs</i> <i><u>Kyle McKay</u>, Woolpert</i> <i>Moderator: <u>Devyani Kar</u>, Jacobs</i>
4:30 – 6:00 pm	Poster Session and Reception (in-person only) Sponsored by AECOM

Day 3 - Thursday March 12th

8:00 – 9:00 am	Registration (in-person only)
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome Back and Breakout Recap <i><u>Francis Wiese</u>, Baird</i>
9:15 – 10:15 am	<u>Panel 3: Building Resilience: Leveraging Natural Infrastructure</u> <i><u>Kara Fox</u>, National Audubon Society</i> <i><u>Elizabeth Godsey</u>, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</i> <i><u>Jason Kudulis</u>, Mobile Bay National Estuaries Program</i> <i>Moderator: <u>Ram Mohan</u>, Anchor QEA & University of Georgia</i>
10:15 – 10:30 am	<u>Plenary: Funding and Financing Nature-Based Solutions: Economic Opportunities, Risks, and Returns</u> <i><u>Carter Ingram</u>, Pollination Group</i>

- 10:30 – 11:00 am** **Lightning Talks: Funding and Financing Nature-Based Solutions: Economic Opportunities, Risks, and Returns**
- 11:00 – 11:15 am** **Break**
 Sponsored by SWCA Environmental Consultants
- 11:15 – 12:15 pm** **Panel 4: Funding and Financing Nature-Based Solutions: Economic Opportunities, Risks, and Returns**
Talley Burley, Environmental Defense Fund
Grace Edinger, EPIC
Carter Ingram, Pollination Group
Moderator: Megan Kelso
- 12:15 – 12:30 pm** **Closing Remarks**
Todd Bridges, University of Georgia
Christine Angelini, AECOM
Michael Beck, University of California Santa Cruz
Sara Mason, Duke University
- 12:30 – 1:00 pm** **Lunch (in-person only)**
 Sponsored by Restore the Mississippi River Delta