



## **Transdisciplinary Approach Enhances Sustainability**

Clearly, we're using our natural resources faster than our planet can regenerate them. Today, climate change is affecting the long-term viability of our natural resource management choices. Over time, climate change will also affect different stakeholders and objectives as they realize that current approaches aren't working. The concept of "business as usual" no longer applies – we need to change how we do things.

At a SURF Technical Session during the Spring AEHS meeting, SURFer Sabine Apitz (SEA Environmental Decisions Ltd.) urged participants to become more transdisciplinary and collaborative to solve problems, addressing complex systematic risk (and benefit) issues at many scales and considering many different endpoints and stakeholder groups. To sustain biodiversity and society, it is essential to quantify how actions will affect a range of services, values, and populations in space and time. She explained, "Our job is to inform society of the potential trade-offs, risks, and benefits of the scenarios under consideration." Sabine emphasized the importance of first understanding the decision process and what drives the decisions and then translating the science to stakeholders in the context of

those decision drivers. She encouraged practitioners to engage more *throughout* the decision process to allow a better understanding of regulatory drivers, insight into stakeholder values and priorities, and a way forward to solve problems.

This approach is being used in a demonstration project on an island (Chiswick Eyot) of the Thames, a river in England with many ecological challenges. Many stakeholders are involved, focusing on a common goal of improving the sustainability of the island. A long-term comprehensive monitoring program will be designed to provide information to the team in real-time so they can modify remediation plans and activities based on incoming data. To learn more about this project, click [here](#) and [here](#).

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## **Dive In! How the Focus on ESG Affects Remediation Work**

Environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) criteria are an increasingly valuable way for companies to be evaluated. In the most recent issue of *Remediation*, SURF Vice President Kyle Waldron (Marathon Petroleum) and SURF At-Large Trustee Rob Rebel (WSP USA) weighed in on how the focus on ESG has affected their work in the remediation field (click [here](#)).

With a question-and-answer format, the Sustainable Remediation Column offers readers an opportunity to gain insights from environmental professionals who have been intimately involved with the concepts and implementation of sustainable and resilient remediation. SURFers interested in contributing to a future Sustainable Remediation Column should email Betsy Collins (click [here](#)).

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## Upcoming Events

### **SURF Technical Initiative: Environmental Justice Kickoff Call**

July 2022 (date and time to be determined)

If interested, email Kyle Waldron (click [here](#)).

### **Call for Abstracts**

AEHS Foundation's Annual West Coast Conference

*32nd Annual International Conference on Soil, Water, Energy, and Air*

Submission deadline: July 15, 2022

For more information or to submit an abstract, click [here](#).

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