



Resilience Rising: Partnerships for Asia-Pacific's Climate Future

8th September | Mai Po Nature Reserve, Hong Kong



AVPN CLIMATE PATHFINDER WORKSHOP 2025

Resilience Rising: Partnerships for Asia-Pacific's Climate Future

Across the Asia-Pacific region, the accelerating pace of climate change is reshaping economies and endangering lives. The region is **warming nearly twice as fast** as the global average, and **six of the ten most climate-affected countries** globally are in Asia. This rise in extreme weather events—floods, typhoons, droughts—is already displacing millions and overwhelming ecosystems, infrastructure, and vulnerable communities. With up to **49 million internal climate migrants** projected in Asia by 2050, there is an urgent need for integrated, scalable climate resilience solutions.

One promising and still underexplored pathway is the integration of nature-based solutions into disaster risk reduction approaches and climate preparedness. Once scaled, this nexus approach offers significant benefits such as; reducing disaster recovery costs of a benefit-to-cost ratio of 7-to-1, linking ecosystem health to community well-being, reducing the impacts of climate-related disasters and the chance of climate-induced displacement. Yet only **2% of global philanthropic capital** currently goes toward climate mitigation—and even less reaching adaptation efforts, especially those that are community-led and nature focused that integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation . With an estimated **USD 5.9 trillion in climate finance needed by 2050** and only USD 584 million directed to Asia-Pacific in 2023, **there is a substantial gap** in financing solutions that work with nature, not against it.

Yet within this crisis lies unprecedented opportunity. Asia-Pacific's growing cohort of philanthropists—equipped with capital, influence, and generational commitment to sustainability—can pivot this trajectory. By bridging finance with ecological innovation at the interface between nature, disaster risk, climate, and people, they hold the keys to transforming vulnerable landscapes into cradles of resilience.



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Workshop Overview

The AVPN Climate Pathfinders Workshop, co-hosted by WWF on 8th September 2025 at Hong Kong's Mai Po Nature Reserve, convenes philanthropic funders, investors, and financial institutions to catalyze regional partnerships. Building on insights from a May 2025 AVPN-WWF roundtable in Abu Dhabi, this immersive experience moves from dialogue to action. Field visits will reveal NbS in live operation, while breakout sessions will dissect patient capital structures and bankability frameworks for nascent projects.

As a case study, WWF will share details of a new initiative, the Building Climate Resilient Communities programme, a collaborative initiative combining skill sets from organisations working in disaster resilience and conservation, such as IFRC and WWF to use nature to increase the resilience of people to climate impacts and disasters in Asia Pacific. .

The launch of a **joint AVPN-WWF report on disaster and climate resilience** fuels this exchange, targeting Asia-Pacific's climate financing gap through blended models that merge philanthropy's risk tolerance with private capital's scale. This comprehensive report is scheduled to be presented on 8th September at the Mai Po protected area.

The workshop is timed to take place one day before the **AVPN Global Conference in Hong Kong**, positioning it as a high-value platform for Asia-based social investors. Held within the Ramsar-recognised Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay wetlands—home to over 70,000 migratory birds annually—the event situates financial discourse within an active ecological system. This setting reflects the essence of the Climate Pathfinders Programme: to move capital and collaboration to support NbS where climate, nature, and people intersect.

This will engage philanthropic funders, financial institutions and impact investors to discuss and explore the potential for collaborative financing to address the intersection of climate, nature, and people to build community resilience to climate impacts and disasters across the Asia-Pacific.

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Why Mai Po Nature Reserve

[Mai Po](#) is Asia-Pacific's living laboratory for nature conservation and has delivered NbS success. As a Ramsar-designated Wetland of International Importance, it has safeguarded Hong Kong and Shenzhen for **40+ years** through mangroves that absorb storm surges and *gei wai* ponds (inter-tidal shrimp ponds) that mitigate floods—demonstrating how NbS blends ecological resilience with community benefits. This makes it the ideal setting to launch AVPN-WWF's landmark report **Mobilising Partnerships to Shape Disaster & Climate Resilience**, which translates roundtable insights into actionable frameworks to close the region's climate finance gap.the region's climate finance gap.



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Workshop Objective

To cultivate a deeper understanding among philanthropic funders and investors of how blended finance and patient capital can be effectively mobilised for Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and community resilience in Asia-Pacific, through immersive learning, peer exchange, and field-based insights.

Programme Schedule

Time (hrs)	Agenda
07:45 AM - 08:30 AM	Pick up from Hotel (in Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon) and transport to Mai Po Nature Reserve
8:30 AM - 8:40 AM	Welcome & Introductory Remarks from AVPN and WWF
8:40 AM - 8:50 AM	Introduction of the 'Building Climate Resilient Communities' programme
8:50 AM - 9:00 AM	Report Launch on Mobilising Partnerships to Shape Disaster & Climate Resilience in Asia-Pacific
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Field Visit to Mai Po Nature Reserve
10:30 AM - 10:40 AM	Climate Pathfinders Group Photo
10:40 AM - 11:10 AM	Coffee Break and Networking
11:10 AM - 12:10 PM	Breakout Discussion on NbS projects in philanthropic portfolios, bankability, and role of patient capital in sustainable finance models.
12:10 PM - 12:30 PM	Discussion Outcomes & Closing Remarks
12:30 PM - 13:15 PM	Bus to Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
-----Day Ends-----	

Programme Flow

The programme will commence with welcome remarks from WWF and AVPN, emphasising the need to address the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable communities, highlighting the critical role of sustainable economic growth in building resilient futures. Following this, guests will be guided through a tour of the Mai Po Nature Reserve, where participants can witness firsthand challenges and solutions associated with the protection of the internationally important wetlands and see NbS at work. This will serve as a perfect segue into the breakout session where participants can engage in dialogue on the two broad questions and share their reflections on the day.

- What inspired you about your visit this morning? Did you see the connection between Nature-based Solutions and climate resilience?
- How can financing the emerging nexus of nature, disaster-risk reduction, and climate adaptation be positioned within the philanthropic ecosystem and effectively collaborate with other capital providers to close the financing gap on nature and climate adaptation?
- What blended finance models or business cases have you seen that could make these solutions impactful and investable—and is future bankability always necessary to attract funding?

Call to Action

The Mai Po gathering marks not just an event, but a launchpad. With insights from the Climate Pathfinders Programme, AVPN and WWF invite philanthropists, DFIs, investors, and ecosystem partners to bridge the gap and lay the foundation for a long-term collaborative approach—one that accelerates the flow of strategic, risk-tolerant capital into NbS, grounded in measurable outcomes and equity.



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