

## Singapore-ETH Centre

# Natural Capital Singapore to Inform Planning

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The new project **Natural Capital Singapore** would further enrich existing tools and techniques, helping planners and developers visualise data on the benefits of natural capital.

### THE STRAITS TIMES

## Development v saving nature: Project to help assess trade-offs



Besides giving shade and beautifying our roads, trees also help to slow stormwater run-off and help soil absorb more rainwater, reducing the strain on the drainage network. ST FILE PHOTO

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The launch of **Natural Capital Singapore** was featured in **Development v saving nature: Project to help assess trade-offs** in The Straits Times, which delved into the project's objective, approach, and application.

The Singapore-ETH Centre and National University of Singapore are lead-

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ing the effort, together with the Nanyang Technological University and the Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology (CUGE) at the National Parks Board, to quantify the benefits of the country's forests, parks, waterways, coastal, and marine habitats. This will provide a framework for planners and developers to assess the trade-offs between development and conservation.

The team of architects, biologist, ecologists, economists, geographers, and software engineers will create a framework to define Singapore's most important ecosystems, determine their benefits and agree on tools to measure them. They will then assess the current state of the country's land, coastal and marine habitats, and quantify their economic, societal and environmental benefits.

One of the outcomes of this project is a tool to help planners and developers visualise data on the benefits of natural capital and simulate the impact of various scenarios on Singapore's natural capital.

**Dr Dan Richards** one of the principal investigators from the Singapore-ETH Centre, said that Natural Capital Singapore will equip planners and developers to make better-informed decisions when faced with development-environment trade-offs, and also identify opportunities for the stronger incorporation of natural capital into our urban landscape.

*The research outputs of the project would further enrich the suite of tools and techniques that NParks and other agencies have developed for evidence-based urban planning, development and management.*

Dr Lena Chan, senior director for the international biodiversity conservation division of the National Parks Board

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