



PARIS
LODRON
UNIVERSITÄT
SALZBURG

Lecture Series Environment & Biodiversity

**Co-creating Nature positive
Watershed Restoration: Lessons from
a Small Watershed in Japan**

Assoc. Prof. Hironori Hayashi

Kyushu University

Host: Univ.-Prof. Kyoko Shinozaki



Friday, March 20, 2026, 10:00 PM CET

Hybrid lecture:

NLW-Faculty, Room 424, 2nd floor

Join online via MS Teams meeting Link on Website:



Research field:

Ecology and environment, Civil Engineering,
Architecture, Disaster Prevention





Abstract

Freshwater biodiversity degradation has been a critical global challenge, occurring more rapidly than in terrestrial or marine systems. In response to the international goal of achieving “Nature Positive by 2030,” Japan incorporated the social implementation of Nature Positive principles into its national biodiversity strategy. Against this background, our project—supported by the National Geographic Society—conducted a community-driven freshwater restoration initiative in the Notori River basin, a biodiversity hotspot on Kyushu Island, Japan. Focusing on degraded wetlands in the watershed, the project implemented practical restoration measures and scientifically evaluated their effectiveness.

The project consisted of four integrated activities. First, the core activity involved community-led wetland restoration. During the project period, approximately 1,000 m² of wetlands were restored through collaborative fieldwork with local residents and partner organizations. Second, the ecological outcomes of the restoration were quantitatively verified through biodiversity monitoring, which enabled assessment of habitat improvement and species responses. Third, multi-stakeholder workshops were organized to discuss the future vision for a sustainable local community and to raise awareness of freshwater conservation. Finally, the project provided environmental education programs for children, helping to share the value of wetlands and to foster local stewardship. Through these combined activities, the project demonstrated a practical and community-based model for advancing Nature-Positive freshwater restoration in rural Japan.

About the speaker

Hironori Hayashi is an Associate Professor in the Department of Urban and Environmental Engineering at Kyushu University. He specializes in river morphology and river restoration. In particular, he focuses on the social implementation of river environment conservation and restoration in cooperation with various stakeholders. In his most recent work, he is an Explorer for the National Geographic Society, working on a community-led watershed restoration project in the Notori River Basin. He has extensive practical experience in working with local communities on water environment restoration and has received the JSCE Design Award and the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Award in Engineering Education.