



NATURE-BASED
SOLUTIONS 2026
International Congress

2-6 NOVEMBER 2026

Paris, France



**SCIENTIFIC
CONFERENCE
PROGRAM**

SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS SESSIONS OVERVIEW

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY NOV. 4TH

- 10:00 AM** ↑ 1. Beyond pilot phase: Pathways for scaling Nature-based Solutions toward systemic impacts - **Symposium**
2. Socio-ecological Justice in scaling Nature-based Solutions - **Symposium**
3. Multifunctional landscapes as NbS for reconciling biodiversity conservation with multiple land uses - **Symposium**
4. Transformative Nature-based Solutions in Agri-Food Systems: A Participatory Workshop on Governance, Benchmarking, and Decision Support - **Workshop**
- 12:00 AM** ↓
- 1:30 PM** ↑ 5. Mainstreaming NbS in a world that is not focused on nature - **Symposium**
6. The Socio-politics of Nature-based Solutions: Toward inclusive and resilient multispecies communities - **Symposium**
7. From Demonstration to Quantitative Evaluation of Nature-based Solutions in Agricultural and Forest Ecosystems - **Symposium**
- 3:30 PM** ↓ 8. Scaling Nature-based Solutions through a biodiversity-climate-health lens: a replication lab - **Workshop**
- 4:00 PM** ↑ 9. Digital tools for the uptake of Nature-based Solutions: Pathways to integration, synergy, and further development - **Symposium**
10. Valuing Non-Market Benefits of Nature-based Solutions for More Inclusive Environmental Decisions - **Symposium**
11. Linking wetland restoration and nursery development in marginal wetscapes for closed-loop regional management - **Symposium**
12. From principles to practice: Participatory methods for engaging commonly excluded stakeholders in NbS governance under IUCN Criterion 5 - **Workshop**
- 6:00 PM** ↓

DAY 2: THURSDAY NOV. 5TH

- 10:00 AM** ↑ 13. Nature-based Solutions for coastal resilience - **Symposium**
14. Restoring connections through Nature-based Solutions: multifunctional landscape restoration for ecosystem services across urban, peri-urban and rural - **Symposium**
- 12:00 AM** ↓ 15. From Research to Reality: Building Social Capacity for NbS in Water Management - **Workshop**
- 1:30 PM** ↑ 16. Implementing sponge landscapes - the role of NbS in enhancing climate resilience at landscape scale - **Symposium**
17. Rethinking Nature-Driven Water Security through Emerging Bioregional Approaches - **Symposium**
18. Reconnecting with Living Systems: Arts-Based Methodologies for Nature-based Solutions Research and Co-Design - **Workshop**
- 3:30 PM** ↓
- 4:00 PM** ↑ 19. Enhancing Riparian and Aquatic NbS decision-making: Preferences and Values for Biodiversity - **Symposium**
20. From Barriers to Breakthroughs: Advancing Nature-based Solutions in Cities of the Global South - **Symposium**
- 6:00 PM** ↓ 21. Nature-based Solutions and Coastal Resilience: bridging Ecological and Societal Dimensions - **Workshop**

DAY 3: FRIDAY NOV. 6TH

- 8:30 AM** ↑ 22. Reconnecting cities and peri-urban areas with nature: the role of Nature-based Solutions - **Symposium**
23. Evaluating Nature-based Solutions Across Social-Ecological Dimensions: NATURA's Global Roadmap on Pathways to Scaling Up, Out, Deep, and Long - **Symposium**
24. Co-governance of Nature-based Solutions for transformative change in cities and urban regions - **Symposium**
25. Connecting biodiversity and climate (transformative) action: Clashing of tough choices on Nature-based Solutions implementation? A debate arena - **Workshop**
- 10:30 AM** ↓
- 11:00 AM** ↑ 26. Whose Nature, Whose City? Exploring urban nature imaginaries, governance and transformative NbS - **Symposium**
27. Transforming NbS thinking and practice: engaging in decolonial, relational, and situated knowledges to deal with the polycrisis - **Symposium**
28. Leveraging the Diversity of Living Lab Approaches for Transformative Nature-based Solutions: Insights and Perspectives - **Symposium**
29. Adopting a One Health approach for Nature-based Solutions: advancing healthier futures at the human-nature interface - **Workshop**
- 1:00 PM** ↓
- 2:00 PM** ↑ 30. Beyond Implementation: Stewardship and Governance of Nature-based Solutions for Long-Term Urban Transformation - **Symposium**
31. Alleviating tensions in peri-urban climate adaptation: the government as facilitator of nature-based small wins - **Symposium**
32. Nature-based solutions for mental health and wellbeing: informal, organised, and therapeutic approaches - **Symposium**
- 4:00 PM** ↓ 33. Scaling Nature-based Solutions Through Social Infrastructure: A New Framework for Climate-Resilient Landscapes - **Workshop**



1

BEYOND PILOT PHASE: PATHWAYS FOR SCALING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TOWARD SYSTEMIC IMPACT

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Enora Bruley – CNRS, Université Grenoble Alpes**
- Sandra Lavorel – CNRS
- Patrick Meyfroidt – Université Catholique de Louvain
- Diana Sietz – Thuenen Institute
- Aude Zingraff-Hamed – Technische Universität Dortmund

ABSTRACT

While thousands of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) pilot projects have demonstrated local success, a persistent challenge persist: moving from isolated interventions to systemic and large-scale social-ecological impact. This session, initiated by the SOLU-BIOD Knowledge Hub on NbS Scaling Archetypes, explores the scientific and practical advancements on NbS scaling. Scaling NbS is not a linear process driven by mechanisms defined as complex interactions between multiple institutional, governance, financial, geographical, ecological, social and cultural factors. We invite researchers to present interdisciplinary findings on the mechanisms and pathways that allow NbS to achieve long-term sustainability and widespread adoption. Beyond descriptive case studies, we encourage contributions that analyze the causal links between these factors leading to effective NbS scaling.

The session aims to examine scaling in its multiple forms including NbS replication and geographic spread, institutionalization into policy and law, and changing mindsets and practices, and across the full spectrum of NbS interventions – ranging from terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems' conservation, restoration, and sustainable management, to ecosystem creation in urban settings worldwide. Key themes will focus on: Scaling mechanisms: Presenting concrete examples of mechanisms and pathways that influence how NbS scale across different socio-ecological contexts. Contextual dynamics: Analyzing how diverse social-ecological legacies as well as NbS characteristics influence scaling pathways in both the Global North and Global South. Effectiveness at scale: Investigating how the ecological, social, and economic outcomes of NbS evolves as initiatives expand spatially and temporally. By synthesizing diverse perspectives and real-world initiatives, this session bridges theory and practice and explores how research can deliver actionable models to scale NbS for global challenges.

FORMAT

Symposium

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

If you are interested in contributing to this session, you are welcome to apply through the [Call for Abstracts & Posters](#).



2

SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE IN SCALING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Sara Maestre Andrés** – Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
- David Camacho Caballero – Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
- Johannes Langemeyer – Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
- Marije Schaafsma – Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
- Mario Torralba – Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
- McKenna Davis – Ecologic Institute

ABSTRACT

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) will have to be implemented at large scales across diverse social and ecological contexts and be supported by multiple institutions to achieve major sustainability objectives, including biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and the improvement of human well-being. Concerns over justice in NbS have been raised as they may generate or intensify already existing socio-ecological inequalities, perpetuate the lack of recognition and involvement of vulnerable stakeholders and promote speculative development. Such risks are likely to be amplified when scaling NbS across places. In this context, key knowledge gaps remain around how to enact and evaluate justice in NbS scaling processes. We assume that NbS delivery at a wider scale can only generate just outcomes and lasting transformative change if the scaling approach towards geographical expansion is embedded in the political, organisational and cultural context. Such a scaling approach must include:

- i) scaling up to higher policy level changes in laws, policies, or norms to foster institutional change for NbS;
- ii) (re-) allocating necessary resources and means (e.g. incentives, funding) to support NbS implementation and impact (scaling down);
- iii) ensuring organisations have the structure, and capacity to deliver effective NbS and foster collaborative governance (scaling in);
- and iv) achieving transformative change in social-ecological relations, practices, norms, beliefs and values and reflexive learning (scaling deep).

In this session, we aim to discuss and produce new knowledge on justice implications of scaling NbS. We welcome contributions that explore questions like:

- a) What are the mechanisms through which scaling NbS creates socio-ecological (in)justice?
- b) In what ways do perceptions of justice change in the course of different NbS scaling interventions?
- c) Which governance arrangements support justice principles when scaling NbS?

FORMAT

Symposium

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

If you are interested in contributing to this session, you are welcome to apply through the [Call for Abstracts & Posters](#).



3

MULTIFUNCTIONAL LANDSCAPES AS NBS FOR RECONCILING BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION WITH MULTIPLE LAND USES

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Julia Rouet-Leduc - Stockholm University**
- Mario Torralba - Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

ABSTRACT

Rural landscapes worldwide are currently facing growing pressure on biodiversity from parallel processes of agriculture intensification and land abandonment. These processes have led to a decline in landscape multifunctionality, and a growing disconnection between people and nature. Competing needs for urbanisation, agriculture and food production, recreation or energy productions often create conflicting demands on landscapes. These dynamics not only threaten biodiversity but also erode the economic and cultural value of these landscapes. This session explores how multifunctional landscapes can act as NbS to mitigate trade-offs between biodiversity conservation and other land uses by integrating ecological, societal, and livelihood considerations into coherent landscape strategies. These landscapes can support diverse livelihoods and incorporate different uses and values of nature, offering pathways to reconcile seemingly competing land uses.

This session invites contributions from different disciplines that explore how these in turn can be conceptualised, implemented, and governed as NbS to generate synergies between biodiversity conservation and other land uses.

The Symposium will examine questions such as:

- How can governance arrangements facilitate or maintain multifunctional landscapes across different scales and sectors to enhance NbS effectiveness?
- How can landscape stewardship be fostered in different actors to support biodiversity conservation and livelihood?
- How can local communities be involved in the management and processes of multifunctional landscapes in a way that strengthens environmental justice and inclusivity?

The session encourages especially empirical and inter- and transdisciplinary research, including case studies, comparative analyses, action-oriented approaches, and innovative methods that advance the understanding and implementation of multifunctional landscapes as NbS.

FORMAT

Symposium

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

If you are interested in contributing to this session, you are welcome to apply through the [Call for Abstracts & Posters](#).



4

TRANSFORMATIVE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS IN AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS: A PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOP ON GOVERNANCE, BENCHMARKING, AND DECISION SUPPORT**HOST AND CO-HOST**

- **Qirui Li - University of Hohenheim**
- **Pia Folkmann - Klimafonden Skive**
- **Tommy Dalgaard - Aarhus University**

ABSTRACT

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are increasingly recognised as key to sustainable agri-food systems. However, their transformative potential remains difficult to assess, compare, and operationalise in policy and practice. Existing approaches often focus on technical performance while underrepresenting governance, equity, and long-term system change.

This interactive workshop addresses this gap through an integrated and interdisciplinary approach combining three complementary entry points:

1. A principles-criteria-indicator (PCI) framework offering a structured lens to reflect on key dimensions of transformative NbS in agriculture;
2. A Decision Support System (DSS) that translates these dimensions into a practical tool for exploring co-benefits, trade-offs, and governance conditions; and
3. A bio-grass refinery value chain case study, providing a real-world application to test, challenge, and ground both the framework and the tool.

The 2-hour workshop session emphasises the interplay between conceptual framing, operational tools, and empirical insights. Across these components, key dimensions such as social-ecological integration, stakeholder co-production, equity, institutional alignment, adaptive learning, and stewardship are explored and critically assessed through qualitative indicators, quantitative analysis, and practical application. Participants will engage in interactive group work to:

- Reflect on and refine the relevance and clarity of assessment dimensions and indicators;
- Test the DSS as a decision-support tool for capturing agricultural NBS co-benefits and trade-offs;
- Analyse an established bio-grass value chain to identify governance challenges and scaling opportunities.

By linking conceptual reflection, practical tools, and real-world experience, the session fosters a science-policy dialogue on how to make NBS evaluation actionable, comparable, and context-sensitive. It contributes to advancing innovative and practice-oriented approaches for assessing and scaling transformative NbS in agri-food systems.

FORMAT

Workshop



5

MAINSTREAMING NBS IN A WORLD THAT IS NOT FOCUSED ON NATURE

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Kerry Waylen – James Hutton Institute**
- Leonard Sandin – NINA/ Norwegian Institute for Nature Research
- Kirsty Blackstock – James Hutton Institute

ABSTRACT

NbS experts agree that working with nature is essential to safeguard and enhance future social and economic well-being. However, in real life, nature's values are not well considered in the decisions of most economic sectors and many policy domains still do not focus on nature. This situation is exacerbated when there is not – as is usual for most countries – a single NbS policy or statutory target. Relevant public sector actors prioritise pre-existing statutory goals. Likewise, private sector organisations focus on protecting their profitability: some do not yet see nature as key to that, whilst others do perceive nature as relevant, but may struggle to act in the face of current market or institutional conditions. In other words, NbS is rarely set in a supportive governance context. So, a key challenge is how to 'mainstream' NbS across the many sectors not currently focused on NbS. Without doing so, we will never deliver meaningful improvements to nature and people. In this session we want to connect academic and practitioner experiences to tackle this challenge. We welcome contributions tackling any the following questions:

- What empirical insights show opportunities for mainstreaming?
- Are mainstreaming challenges shared – or not – across the public and private sector?
- Are insights about mainstreaming NbS shared – or not – across different settings, especially urban vs rural?
- Which ideas and concepts – such as transformations' leverage points – help identify real-life processes for enabling change?
- Are specific types of data and knowledge priorities for enabling mainstreaming, and if so how must it be communicated and shared?
- Does mainstreaming have implications for Monitoring & Evaluating NbS?
- What are the implications for those who seek to enable and govern NbS?

We invite contributions for 10 minute empirically-informed talks focused on any of these topics. At least one third of this symposium will be reserved for a panel discussion with the speakers and audience.

FORMAT

Symposium

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

If you are interested in contributing to this session, you are welcome to apply through the [Call for Abstracts & Posters](#).



6

THE SOCIO-POLITICS OF NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS: TOWARD INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT MULTISPECIES COMMUNITIES

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Juha Hiedanpää - Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)**
- Isabel Ferreira - Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra

ABSTRACT

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are increasingly promoted as essential governance tools to address urgent biodiversity and climate challenges. While the significance of metrics of understanding how to live in, with, and for nature—and of applying participatory planning in NbS design and implementation—is well recognized and rapidly advancing, the complex interface among social, ecological, political, and technological realms shaping NbS workability remains insufficiently explored, both in theory and practice.

Too often, NbS are still perceived as technological fixes—such as green roofs or wetland restoration—rather than as (i) collaborative human–non-human co-designs informed by coevolutionary theories, (ii) governance models demanding reflexive learning and unlearning of entrenched practices that impede NbS adoption, or (iii) innovative, experiential, and place-based landscape approaches capable of fostering more just and resilient multispecies communities.

This session seeks to critically examine the socio-political dimensions of NbS design, decision-making, and implementation to deepen our understanding of human–nature relations and their enactment through different governance arrangements. Building on the Horizon Europe projects such as COEVOLVERS, TRANS-lighthouses, and Naturescapes, we invite presentations that scrutinise NbS strategies and participatory initiatives, explore digital and arts-based methods, analyse collaborative governance models, and evaluate approaches that foster and consolidate NbS implementation. We are particularly interested in contributions that examine how nature speaks, is voiced, mediated, and represented in co-creation processes. This special session aims to advance critical perspectives on NbS theories and methodologies for implementation and monitoring, and to illuminate the transformative potential of transdisciplinary solutions to ecological, social, and economic challenges.

FORMAT

Symposium

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

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7

FROM DEMONSTRATION TO QUANTITATIVE EVALUATION OF NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS IN AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Javier Samper Calvete** – University of A Coruña
- Petteri Karisto – Natural Resources Institute Finland
- Velimir Mladenov – University of Novi Sad
- David Bohan – INRAE

ABSTRACT

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are increasingly promoted to enhance the resilience of agricultural and forest systems under growing hydroclimatic pressures. However, a critical gap persists between their conceptual potential and the availability of robust, quantitative evidence on their performance, scalability and long-term effectiveness. This session focuses on bridging this gap by bringing together contributions on the demonstration, monitoring and quantitative evaluation of NbS under real-world conditions. We particularly welcome studies that combine field implementation with advanced monitoring systems and modelling approaches to assess hydrological, ecological and socio-economic impacts. The session will emphasise:

- Quantification of NbS performance (e.g. water balance, soil moisture dynamics, vegetation response)
- Integration of high-resolution monitoring (sensor networks, remote sensing) with process-based models
- Multi-scale approaches linking plot, farm and catchment levels
- Evaluation of NbS effectiveness under extreme events (droughts, intense rainfall)
- Analysis of transferability, site dependency and upscaling challenges

Contributions addressing co-design with stakeholders are welcome when directly linked to implementation feasibility and performance assessment. By focusing on measurable evidence and integrated assessment frameworks, the session aims to support the transition from pilot implementations to operational deployment and replication of NbS across regions.

FORMAT

Symposium

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

If you are interested in contributing to this session, you are welcome to apply through the [Call for Abstracts & Posters](#).



8

SCALING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS THROUGH A BIODIVERSITY-CLIMATE-HEALTH LENS: A REPLICATION LAB

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Sara Camilleri - Ecostack Innovations**
- Mario Balzan - Ecostack Innovations

ABSTRACT

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are increasingly used to address linked challenges around biodiversity loss, climate change, and public health and are amongst the most prominent examples of integrated action across the Biodiversity-Climate-Health (BCH) nexus. However, scaling these solutions across different governance and territorial contexts remains a key challenge. While many NbS initiatives show promising results at local pilot level, their longer-term sustainability (scaling deep), replication across regions (scaling out), and integration into policy frameworks (scaling up) remain limited.

This session proposes an interactive “Replication Lab” designed to move beyond discussing barriers and towards identifying what works in practice. It builds on experience from the Horizon Europe projects GoGreenNext (GGN) and GREEN TALENT, combining insights from urban city pilots in Cork, Päijät-Häme, Malta and Klagenfurt with capacity-building approaches aimed at policymakers, practitioners, and researchers. Participants are invited to work in small, mixed groups using a curated set of NbS case studies, including selected contributions submitted in advance. Each group will be asked to explore how a proven intervention could be adapted to a different context. Using a simple, structured template, participants will identify which governance conditions need to stay the same, which need to change or added and how, and what policy and capacity requirements are necessary.

The exercise will also discuss how NbS can be better connected to wider BCH objectives. The session will produce a set of concise “Replication Blueprints” capturing key lessons for transferring and scaling NbS across contexts. These outputs will inform ongoing work on best practices and capacity-building under GGN and GREEN TALENT and will form the basis for a joint Comment/Perspective paper. By focusing on practical adaptation, the session aims to leave participants with concrete ideas and transferable insights.

FORMAT

Workshop



9

DIGITAL TOOLS FOR THE UPTAKE OF NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS: PATHWAYS TO INTEGRATION, SYNERGY, AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Chiara Catalano - Italian National Research Council**
- Francesca Bretzel - Italian National Research Council
- Giulio Hasanaj - University of Florence
- Mithila UNkule - Biodiversa+
- Vittorio Bellotto - IUCN
- Nathalia Andrea Burgos Cuevas - IUCN
- Charles Karangwa - IUCN
- Chiara Baldacchini - University of Tuscia

ABSTRACT

Digital resources are increasingly central to the planning, implementation, monitoring, and upscaling of NbS. They support knowledge uptake, participatory planning, benefit and co-benefit assessment, and decision-making. Their landscape is rapidly expanding and, thus, highly fragmented, often geographically biased, with overlapping functionalities, limited interoperability, inconsistent terminology and evaluation standards, all hindering their broader uptake by practitioners and policymakers.

This session addresses the need for coherence, integration, and complementarity among existing digital NbS support systems, bringing together developers, researchers, and users of these tools. The outline and objectives are: (1) Presenting cutting edge digital platforms supporting NbS design, assessment, modelling, and monitoring; (2) Showcasing methodological innovations enabling interoperability, standardization, and shared data infrastructures; (3) Identifying complementarities and gaps across existing tools to avoid duplication and enhance user uptake; (4) Co developing pathways for synergy among digital systems, including shared vocabularies, nomenclatures, APIs, and modular design.

The main outcome expected is to draft a position paper identifying a roadmap toward an integrated digital ecosystem supporting the NbS uptake. Therefore, contributions shall highlight: (1) The scientific and technical advantages obtained with their tools; (2) The way evidence-based approaches were integrated; (3) How existing standards are, or plan to be, integrated; (4) Possible pathways to integrate functionalities across existing tools; (5) The way multiple stakeholders were or might be involved.

By highlighting both technological innovation and practical applications, the session strengthens the scientific foundation for the development of integrated actionable knowledge for scalable, evidence-based NbS, while guaranteeing their integrity, quality, and long-term financial sustainability.

FORMAT

Symposium

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

If you are interested in contributing to this session, you are welcome to apply through the [Call for Abstracts & Posters](#).

[←BACK TO THE SUMMARY](#)



10

VALUING NON-MARKET BENEFITS OF NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR MORE INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL DECISIONS

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Abdulrahman Hassanin - University of the West of England**

ABSTRACT

Economic valuation is the most common factor in supporting decisions around Nature-based Solutions (NbS). In practice, most applications rely on approaches that based on environmental economics, particularly cost-benefit analysis and monetary valuation techniques. These have been useful in making NbS visible within policy and investment contexts, for example through tools such as B&EST, InVEST, and i-Tree. However, they often fail to capture non-transactional values (e.g., biodiversity, amenity, education), and they have limited attention to ethical considerations and community values. Ecological economics focus more on issues such as justice, long-term sustainability, and plural values (including intrinsic, cultural, and relational values). While these perspectives highlight that values cannot be reduced to dollars or euros, they always face challenges in what criteria to be applied, how to decide, and who decides in real-world decision-making processes.

This session aims to bring these discussions together by focusing on how the economic dimension of NbS can be approached in a more balanced and practical way. It invites contributions that critically reflect on current valuation practices but also move towards workable approaches that make the development more flexible and possible. The session will explore three main directions:

1. Examining the strengths and limitations of existing economic valuation methods for NbS;
2. Presenting alternative or complementary approaches, including participatory and deliberative methods;
3. Discussing how economic appraisal can better account for uncertainty, long-term impacts, and differences in stakeholder values.

Contributions may include methodological developments, empirical case studies, or applied tools and frameworks. Particular interest is given to approaches that combine monetary valuation with stakeholder engagement to support more transparent and context-sensitive decisions.

FORMAT

Symposium

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

If you are interested in contributing to this session, you are welcome to apply through the [Call for Abstracts & Posters](#).



11

LINKING WETLAND RESTORATION AND NURSERY DEVELOPMENT IN MARGINAL WETSCAPES FOR CLOSED-LOOP REGIONAL MANAGEMENT

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Monique Poulin - Université Laval**
- Kim Charron Charbonneau - Université Laval
- Audréanne Loiselle - Université Laval

ABSTRACT

Wetlands are ecosystems that support a large number of species forming unique communities, among the most productive in the world. They also provide a wide range of key ecosystem services, including improved water quality and protection against floods and storm surges through the regulation of river flows and the reduction of wave height in marine environments. These services, however, are increasingly compromised by the remarkable efficiency with which humans transform landscapes to extract consumable products and build infrastructure. Developing restoration approaches adapted to our fragmented landscapes has therefore become crucial to ensuring the long-term persistence of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecosystem services.

The objective of this session is to present key findings and innovative approaches aimed at optimizing wetland restoration efforts and maximizing restoration success, particularly in the context of constraints related to the production and availability of plant materials. The session is organized by Project RARE (Research and Applications for Restoration Éclairée), affiliated with Université Laval (Québec, Canada). We invite the submission of abstracts addressing challenges related to:

1. The importance of actively introducing vegetation in restored and created sites compared with spontaneous revegetation processes;
2. The establishment success of plant material across different environmental contexts and through a diversity of methods;
3. Issues related to the supply of plant material for active revegetation, including species diversity, genetic considerations, timing of production and ordering, and other limiting factors;
4. The range of approaches that may be implemented for active revegetation and the criteria guiding plant species selection;
5. The potential role of marginal wetscapes in producing plant propagules through the implementation of open-air nurseries;
6. Governance frameworks for plant material production that could promote regional species pools and genetic diversity. This session aims to inspire the development of restoration approaches applicable to a wide range of ecosystems.

FORMAT

Symposium

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

If you are interested in contributing to this session, you are welcome to apply through the [Call for Abstracts & Posters](#).

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12

FROM PRINCIPLES TO PRACTICE: PARTICIPATORY METHODS FOR ENGAGING COMMONLY EXCLUDED STAKEHOLDERS IN NBS GOVERNANCE UNDER IUCN CRITERION 5

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **McKenna Davis - Ecologic Institute**
- Natalia Burgos - IUCN
- Dimitra Xidou - Trinity College Dublin
- Rik De Vreese - European Forest Institute
- Gerd Lupp - Technische Universität München
- Sara Maestre Andrés - Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

ABSTRACT

High-integrity NbS require evidence-based design, transparent and inclusive governance, and equitable benefit-sharing. Yet NbS research and practice still face a key methodological challenge: how to systematically identify, engage, and integrate the perspectives of commonly excluded stakeholders (CES) so that they meaningfully influence governance and knowledge production.

This workshop aims to generate new insights on participatory methodologies that operationalise inclusive governance in NbS, contributing to the implementation of Criterion 5 of the IUCN Global NbS Standard, which calls for “inclusive, transparent and empowering governance processes.”

The session builds on findings from a recent NetworkNature Taskforce 6 report on co-creating NbS with CES, which identifies eight guiding principles for inclusive co-creation, including intentional inclusion, equity and recognition, cultural sensitivity, reflexivity, and sustained trust-building across the NbS lifecycle. Following a short framing presentation, participants will engage in a facilitated mapping exercise analysing how participatory tools and processes support these principles. Drawing on examples from the report and participants' own research and project experience, small groups will compare methods, identify strengths and limitations, and explore contextual factors shaping their effectiveness across NbS contexts. One approach (EMPath – memory-work and lived-experience mapping) will be examined as a methodological case, providing concrete insights into experiential methods for surfacing diverse knowledge and informing co-creation with CES. Insights generated will inform a concise synthesis linking governance principles with participatory tools, shared as an accessible one-page brief or infographic for the NbS research and practice community following the event.

FORMAT

Workshop



NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR COASTAL RESILIENCE

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Christophe Proisy - Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)**
- Mouncef Sedrati - Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale
- Aude Zingraff-Hamed - University of Dortmund

ABSTRACT

The effectiveness and long-term performance of NbS on the coasts are highly context-dependent. In particular, key uncertainties persist regarding how NbS respond to evolving morphosedimentary conditions induced by both natural and anthropogenic pressures, coastal wetland dynamics, and governance constraints. Stronger scientific evidence and operational feedbacks based on a careful consideration of the diversity of ecosystems, societal challenges and stakeholder dynamics.

This session aims to:

1. Assess the processes and conditions controlling the implementation and performance of NbS in different coastal contexts, including consideration of specific coastal wetlands of any kind (mangroves, saltmarshes, seagrass meadows and other intertidal environments),
2. Examine how ecological dynamics, morphosedimentary change and socio-economics as well as governance transformations can support socio-ecological coastal resilience through time,
3. Explore how NbS can support a renewed paradigm for sustainable coastal management and socio-ecological adaptation.

Contributions based on monitoring, modelling, experiments, field observations and comparative case studies are welcome.

FORMAT

Symposium

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

If you are interested in contributing to this session, you are welcome to apply through the [Call for Abstracts & Posters](#).



14

RESTORING CONNECTIONS THROUGH NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS: MULTIFUNCTIONAL LANDSCAPE RESTORATION FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES ACROSS URBAN, PERI-URBAN AND RURAL

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Nathalia Nascimento - Universidade de São Paulo**
- Danilo Boscolo - Universidade de São Paulo
- Eduardo Moreira - Universidade de São Paulo
- Luciana Ferreira - Universidade de São Paulo
- Rafael Chaves - Secretariat for the Environment of the State of São Paulo

ABSTRACT

Nature-based Solutions (Nbs) are gaining increasing prominence as integrated approaches to address climate change, biodiversity loss, and social inequalities. However, their implementation often remains fragmented or sectoral. This session proposes a more integrated and territorial perspective, exploring how the restoration of multifunctional landscapes can reconnect ecological processes and social relations across urban, peri-urban, and rural contexts in diverse socio-environmental settings.

The session is structured around key thematic axes that guide the symposium and frame the discussion. These include: (1) the temporal dynamics of restoration, highlighting long-term challenges and multiple benefits; (2) the design of multifunctional landscapes that enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services while minimizing trade-offs in agricultural systems; (3) the role of urban and peri-urban areas as strategic spaces for restoration and landscape connectivity; (4) restoration approaches to improve pollination ecosystem services; (5) policy instruments and governance arrangements to enable large-scale implementation; and (6) the socio-ecological implications of restoration practices.

We aim to bring together experiences from Brazil and other regions of the world, fostering dialogue across different socio-ecological contexts and scales. We particularly welcome contributions that engage with agroecological approaches, including agroforestry systems and productive restoration, as well as other innovative practices that support ecosystem services, food systems, local economies, and cultural values. We invite researchers, practitioners, and policymakers from diverse geographical and disciplinary backgrounds to share empirical studies, methodological approaches, and case studies related to multifunctional landscape restoration and Nature-based Solutions. Contributions that bring comparative, cross-scale, or transdisciplinary perspectives are especially encouraged. Together, the session aims to frame restoration not only as an ecological intervention but as a socio-ecological process capable of regenerating ecosystems while strengthening human-nature relationships. A final discussion will foster exchange on governance, knowledge co-production, and the role of communities in shaping resilient and multifunctional landscapes.

FORMAT

Symposium

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

If you are interested in contributing to this session, you are welcome to apply through the [Call for Abstracts & Posters](#).

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15

FROM RESEARCH TO REALITY: BUILDING SOCIAL CAPACITY FOR NBS IN WATER MANAGEMENT

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Gabriela Dotro – NbS Future**
- Katharina Tondera – École Nationale des Travaux Publics de l'État

ABSTRACT

Water management NbS have proven functionality. What lacks is social readiness – the trust, shared understanding, and institutional will to move from evidence to action. This session interrogates those conditions through the lens of current initiatives and produces a transferable framework for effective actions. Drawing on the experience of research projects and SMEs, we argue that social readiness is not a downstream problem to be solved after development is done. It is a design challenge to be integrated from the outset. Projects across Europe have invested substantially in ecological and technical innovation, yet dissemination and social-uptake activities remain underdeveloped – leaving well-funded research with limited real-world impact. This workshop brings together practitioners and researchers who have tested, and sometimes struggled with, embedding social engagement into NbS programmes. We examine four interconnected challenges: building shared data cultures enabling transparency; shifting community perception from neglected greenspace to valued neighbourhood asset; co-designing multi-benefit solutions in procurement contexts that default to single-purpose grey infrastructure; and leveraging biodiversity co-benefits to reframe the economic and planning case for NbS. The session combines short provocations grounded in current initiatives and honest about remaining gaps with a structured world-café workshop. Using a shared digital tool, all groups work simultaneously and visibly, enabling cross-pollination between tables and capturing outputs in real-time. A co-produced practitioner framework identifying transferable social-engagement strategies will be further developed into an open-access peer-reviewed paper (target: Nature-based Solutions Journal) and a white paper disseminated through open-access repositories including NetworkNature. The session and outputs directly satisfy dissemination requirements of participating projects.

FORMAT

Workshop



16

IMPLEMENTING SPONGE LANDSCAPES – THE ROLE OF NBS IN ENHANCING CLIMATE RESILIENCE AT LANDSCAPE SCALE

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Ellis Penning – Deltares**
- Christian Albert – Leibniz Universität Hannover
- Lindsey Hendricks–Franco – Ecologic Institute
- Mathias Scholz – Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research
- Lene de Vrieze – Architecture Workroom Brussels

ABSTRACT

Enhancing climate resilience at landscape-scale is necessary to better prepare for the increasing frequency and magnitude of floods, droughts and related risks of wildfires, soil erosion and landslides. The concept of sponge landscapes is increasingly advocated as an approach using NbS and related measures help to restore the full water cycle. It facilitates the natural role of the landscape to absorb heavy rain and buffer droughts. The European Water Resilience Strategy explicitly names the restoration of sponge functioning as an important mechanism in climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, and proposes a Sponge Facility to support the concept across the EU. Yet creating a shared vision of what sponge landscapes look like, and how implementation together with the relevant stakeholders is done remains a challenging pathway.

This session explores current practises to enhance sponge landscapes following a ‘green where you can, grey where you must’ approach and calls for abstracts that contribute to the wider understanding of the potential impact of sponge measures at landscape-scale: which measures are effective, and how do they respond to different types of rain and drought events. A central question is how this information is used in stakeholder dialogues and decision-making processes and how it leads to upscaled implementation of NbS and related sponge measures.

The 2-hour session will consist of 2 parts: 1 part with short scientific presentations, supported by posters to collect experiences from a wide variety of climate and cultural contexts, and 1 part with an interactive dialogue focusing on shared understanding and visioning of landscape-scale restoration of the hydrological cycle.

FORMAT

Symposium

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

If you are interested in contributing to this session, you are welcome to apply through the [Call for Abstracts & Posters](#).



17

RETHINKING NATURE-DRIVEN WATER SECURITY THROUGH EMERGING BIOREGIONAL APPROACHES

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Ericka Toledo Zurita – Water Center at Tecnológico de Monterrey**

ABSTRACT

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) have become a central framework for addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and urban resilience. However, their growing institutionalization often relies on instrumental approaches that overlook the systemic destabilization of the hydrological cycle. This session proposes a critical and forward-looking perspective by exploring nature-driven water security as an emerging paradigm that re-centers water and ecosystems as structuring forces of territory and governance. It invites contributions that rethink water security in a post-crisis era marked by increasing “water bankruptcy” and “continental dryness,” as highlighted by the United Nations and the World Bank. These conditions expose not only scarcity, but critical blind spots in dominant water paradigms that do not integrate nature as an anchoring element of stability.

Conventional approaches – centered on infrastructure and control – often overlook water as a relational entity, embedded in dynamic interactions between ecosystems, climates, and societies. In response, advancing nature-driven water security, by positioning forests, soils, wetlands, and biodiversity as foundational agents of hydrological and climate stability is rendered essential. The session also introduces hydrofeminist perspectives as essential to rethinking water governance, emphasizing relational, care-based, and justice-oriented approaches that help avoid the renewed commodification of nature. Hence, biocultural dimensions are central to sustaining these socio-hydrological systems.

The session aims to: (1) critically reflect on the limitations of current NbS frameworks in addressing hydrological dynamics; (2) explore the conceptual foundations of nature-driven water security; and (3) identify governance, social, policy innovations and biocultural approaches, that enable more integrated, equitable, and regenerative approaches. By bridging hydrology, governance, and biocultural perspectives, this session contributes to promoting novel debates under conditions of global change.

FORMAT

Symposium

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

If you are interested in contributing to this session, you are welcome to apply through the [Call for Abstracts & Posters](#).



18

RECONNECTING WITH LIVING SYSTEMS: ARTS-BASED METHODOLOGIES FOR NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS RESEARCH AND CO-DESIGN

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Uri Yitzchak Noy Meir - ImaginAction**
- Petra Borgmann Durrie - Key Designs

ABSTRACT

Nature-based Solutions require not only ecological knowledge but also fundamental shifts in perception, relational awareness, and collective agency. Yet dominant NbS frameworks underinvest in the experiential and relational dimensions that drive stakeholder engagement, ecological literacy, and transformative awareness and action.

This session addresses that gap through an innovative, practice-based format. Drawing on Theatre that Reconnects and 4D Mapping – a participatory, embodied methodology for visualising relational system dynamics between different stakeholders – participants directly experience arts-based approaches as tools for NbS research, design, and governance. The session demonstrates how embodied and creative methodologies can deepen ecological learning, surface non-conventional knowledge, and support more inclusive and effective NbS co-design processes.

The two-slot format is structured as a progression. The first session introduces conceptual foundations through short presentations and facilitated embodied exercises. The second applies 4D Mapping to a shared socio-ecological challenge, generating collective spatial and relational insights through participatory practice, cross-group analysis, and reflective discussion. This session contributes to an emerging evidence base on methodological pluralism in NbS, bringing underrepresented epistemological traditions – artistic, embodied, and community-based – into dialogue with scientific and governance frameworks. It invites researchers, practitioners, policymakers, artists, and community actors to reflect on how such approaches can support stakeholder engagement, ecological learning, and collaborative NbS design – and on what it means for transformation to begin with a shift in perception.

FORMAT

Workshop



19

ENHANCING RIPARIAN AND AQUATIC NBS DECISION-MAKING: PREFERENCES AND VALUES FOR BIODIVERSITY

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Brooks A. Kaiser - University of Southern Denmark (SDU)**
- Claudia Carvalho-Santos - University of Minho
- Kyra Gmoser-Dakalakis - Utrecht University

ABSTRACT

This session stems from the ARE BEST NBS Biodiversa+ project, whose transdisciplinary scientific objectives are to understand how diverse groups of stakeholders think about biodiversity and how lived experiences change these thoughts and values, and how these interact with valuation, evaluation, and decision-making processes for aquatic NbS. We invite scientific presentations on this topic to complement project team work discussing specific aquatic NBS projects in Portugal, Denmark and Hungary that provide concrete examples of the interplay between biological sciences, psychology, economics and the arts in developing and applying this research. The ongoing research centers on a nuanced understanding of stakeholder perspectives and their impacts on values for NbS investments and biodiversity.

Topics covered include: using spatial historical records of landscapes altered by aquatic barriers to examine revealed preferences and values for transformed aquatic resources; using mental models to understand how stakeholders think of biodiversity and its relationship to NbS; developing stated preference valuation tools in conjunction with mental modeling to elicit information on willingness to pay for attributes of NbS, including biodiversity; how such values may change through experiences and/or co-designed exercises connecting stakeholders to NbS investments; and how the outcomes of decision-making for NbS investments may vary through different formats for using information regarding these values, including cost-benefit analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, and other decision-making tools for public investment.

FORMAT

Symposium

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

If you are interested in contributing to this session, you are welcome to apply through the [Call for Abstracts & Posters](#).



20

FROM BARRIERS TO BREAKTHROUGHS: ADVANCING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS IN CITIES OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Masoumeh Mirsafaa - Lund University**
- Erich Wolff - Utrecht University
- Johanna Sørensen - Lund University

ABSTRACT

Nature based Solutions (NbS) are increasingly recognised as promising strategies for advancing sustainable and resilient development. These approaches carry particular significance in urban environments, where complex socio ecological dynamics, competing priorities, and diverse stakeholders intersect. Cities are often at the forefront of climate vulnerability and social inequality—yet they hold significant potential for transformative NbS.

Despite this potential, the implementation of NbS remains uneven. Many cities, face persistent challenges including fragmented governance, limited financial resources, institutional capacity gaps, and socio-political complexities, hindering the uptake of NbS. These issues are often intensified in cities of the Global South, as diverse and polysemic domain shaped by historical inequalities and uneven power relations. While not homogeneous, many cities in these regions commonly experience rapid urbanisation, infrastructure deficits, informal settlement growth, and high climate risk exposure.

This session invites contributions that critically engage with the practice of NbS in cities of the Global South. Moving beyond success stories, the session seeks submissions that emphasize real-world complexities in planning, implementing, and scaling NbS. By positioning NbS as more than technical fixes, the session aims to explore context-sensitive pathways and generate actionable insights for advancing equitable and effective NbS implementation. In particular, the session welcome papers that 1) Examine NbS response to interconnected climate, ecological, and social challenges in the global south 2) Showcase how traditional knowledge, indigenous practices, and decolonial perspectives inform innovative NbS, 3) Explore inclusive, community-led NbS, especially in informal settlements, 4) Explore how NbS can transform degraded infrastructural and marginal urban spaces, 5) Investigate institutional barriers and knowledge-related challenges for scaling NbS.

FORMAT

Symposium

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

If you are interested in contributing to this session, you are welcome to apply through the [Call for Abstracts & Posters](#).



21

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS AND COASTAL RESILIENCE: BRIDGING ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Véronique Helfer** - Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research
- Martin Zimmer - Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research
- Alexandra-Sophie Roy - Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research
- Jonathan Heimer - Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research
- Jan-Stefan Fritz - Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research

ABSTRACT

As “actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified [...] ecosystems which address social, economic and environmental challenges [...], while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits”, Nature-based Solutions rely on clear definitions and measures of resilience. At the interface between ecology and social sciences, this concept still lacks clarity, even within disciplines. Resilience of societies that rely on NbS depends on the ecological resilience of the ecosystem(s) targeted by their action, towards - among others - warming, sea level-rise, salinization or extreme events. Measuring the efficiency of NbS requires understanding how ecosystems respond to those gradual versus stochastic changes, assessing reliably their resilience, and determining their contribution to societal resilience. The links between ecological and societal resilience, the potential of ecosystem co-design as bridge across these two dimensions and major challenges for implementation will be discussed within an interdisciplinary workshop, with actors from academia, civil society, governmental agencies and NGO.

The workshop will start with three scientific presentations (7 min each) on the state-of-the-art of our understanding of resilience in both ecology (Helfer) and social sciences (tbd), with a focus on how to measure and monitor resilience, aiming at identifying knowledge gaps and avenues to address those, and on the Ecosystem Co-Design approach (Zimmer) for NbS implementation. It will be followed by three impulse talks (5 min each) from actors outside of academia (tbd) to anchor the discussion into local realities of coastal settings, including local perceptions of, and knowledge on, resilience. The outcome of a subsequent panel/fish-bowl discussion will be summarized into a white paper showcasing the challenges and potential of NbS to foster coastal resilience across the Atlantic and beyond, to be disseminated through the Coastal Resilience Hub, with the support of the All-Atlantic Network of Coastal Resilience Beacon Sites, an initiative of the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Action.

FORMAT

Workshop



22

RECONNECTING CITIES AND PERI-URBAN AREAS WITH NATURE: THE ROLE OF NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Najla Kamergi - Euro-Mediterranean Water Information System**
- Tadej Stepisnik Perdih - National Technical University of Athens
- Arianna Cecchi - ART-ER
- Elisa Furlan - CMCC
- Thelma Pellicer - OIEAU

ABSTRACT

Cities and peri-urban areas are increasingly affected by climate change, biodiversity loss, and rising public health challenges across Europe. In parallel, the EU's Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR) establishes new legally binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems, including urban environments. NbS offer promising pathways to reconnect cities with nature while addressing these interlinked challenges. However, implementing these solutions in urban and peri-urban contexts requires more than ecological design. It demands inclusive governance frameworks, innovative blended finance, community engagement, and social acceptance, particularly in densely populated and socially diverse cities.

The session proposed by CARDIMED and three sister projects (ARCADIA, DesirMED and NATALIE) will explore how cities can implement the NRR by fostering cross-disciplinary dialogue to advance a holistic perspective and provide actionable ideas for practitioners as well as policymakers, all synthesized in a collaboratively developed Policy Brief. By presenting evidence-based and policy-relevant knowledge, this session will explore how cities can design, leverage innovative financing and implement NbS that are environmentally efficient, socially accepted, and institutionally supported.

Speakers who bring interdisciplinary expertise spanning ecology, economics, urban planning, sociology, data science are invited to present their innovative tools and methodological approaches for implementation, monitoring and evaluation strategies. Submissions demonstrating the effectiveness of NbS in mitigating urban heat, managing stormwater, reducing flood risks and improving biodiversity are welcome. We also seek contributions demonstrating the measurable impacts of urban and peri-urban NbS, including mental health, physical activity, air quality, and overall wellbeing. Speakers showcasing innovative financing schemes and community engagement are welcome to present their governance model.

FORMAT

Symposium

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

If you are interested in contributing to this session, you are welcome to apply through the [Call for Abstracts & Posters](#).

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23

EVALUATING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS ACROSS SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL DIMENSIONS: NATURA'S GLOBAL ROADMAP ON PATHWAYS TO SCALING UP, OUT, DEEP, AND LONG

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Loan Diep - New York University**
- Timon McPhearson - New York University

ABSTRACT

Cities and urbanized regions around the world are on the front lines of climate driven extremes, with mounting social, ecological, and economic costs. Nature-based solutions (NbS) are already being invested in as fundamental for urban climate adaptation and mitigation, as well as greening cities for health. Are NbS effective? How can they be scaled up and sustained to meet the climate challenge?

The NATURA Global Roadmap for Urban Nature-Based Solutions is a comprehensive region-by-region assessment of urban NbS dedicated to advancing NbS as a key strategy for climate adaptation, resilience, and equity. Developed over three years by 80+ researchers and practitioners in all seven world regions (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America & the Caribbean, the Middle East & North Africa, Oceania, and US-Canada), the Global Roadmap synthesises knowledge from systematic reviews, regional practices, and 150 case studies.

The initiative highlights regional trends, gaps in knowledge, key barriers, best successes and enabling pathways for scaling NbS in cities—covering governance, finance, participation, and justice. It is accompanied by a Global Synthesis Report, Summary for Policymakers, seven Regional Reports, and a multimedia campaign, developed in partnership with ICLEI and The Nature Conservancy.

We propose a dedicated global urban NbS session focused on monitoring evaluation and its role in scaling up, out, deep and long. The session will:

- Introduce the findings and recommendations of NATURA Global Roadmap for Urban Nature-based Solutions
- Showcase regional voices through short interventions and case spotlights.
- Offer a panel exchange on how NbS are being monitored and evaluated in diverse urban contexts, from mega-cities to smaller, rapidly growing towns.
- Inspire participants with a bold call to action for scaling equitable, effective NbS worldwide.

This session is open to submissions to contributors interested in presenting cases, particularly best practices in monitoring and evaluation that support scaling.

FORMAT

Symposium

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

If you are interested in contributing to this session, you are welcome to apply through the [Call for Abstracts & Posters](#).

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24

CO-GOVERNANCE OF NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE IN CITIES AND URBAN REGIONS

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Yuliya Voytenko Palgan - Lund University**
- Vera Sadovska - Lund University
- Charlotte Demonsant - Utrecht University
- Harriet Bulkeley - Utrecht University

ABSTRACT

Urban Nature-based Solutions (NbS) can provide multiple social and environmental benefits: climate mitigation, biodiversity enhancement, inclusive development, and improved well-being. Realising these outcomes, however, depends on the governance processes that shape how NBS are envisioned, implemented, and maintained. Co-governance approaches bringing together public authorities, civil society, private actors, and local communities are widely highlighted as essential for enabling equitable benefit distribution, integrating diverse knowledge, and navigating competing values and interests. Yet interdisciplinary, context-sensitive research critically examining if and how NBS co-governance delivers on these expectations remains limited.

This session aims to advance understanding of (co-)governing NbS for transformative change in cities and urban regions. We invite high-quality scientific contributions, including:

- Systematic reviews, empirical studies, comparative analyses, and methodological innovations, from diverse geographic and socio-political contexts that may address (but are not limited to) agency, power relations, leadership, and stakeholder dynamics in NbS planning and implementation;
- Comparisons of state-led, collaborative, and hybrid governance models, including co-governance, multi-level and adaptive arrangements, and co-creative or experimental approaches such as living labs;
- Resources, capacities, and financial structures that enable or constrain effective NbS (co-)governance;
- Critical assessments of the effectiveness, equity, and justice implications of co-governance arrangements, including when and why they succeed or fail;
- Analyses of when, how, for whom, and to what extent NBS governance processes contribute to transformative urban change and when they do not.

The session seeks to foster inter- and transdisciplinary dialogue and generate insights that strengthen the contribution of NBS governance to just and sustainable urban transformations.

FORMAT

Symposium

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

If you are interested in contributing to this session, you are welcome to apply through the [Call for Abstracts & Posters](#).

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CONNECTING BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE (TRANSFORMATIVE) ACTION: CLASHING OF TOUGH CHOICES ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS IMPLEMENTATION? A DEBATE ARENA

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Sonia Gantioler** - University of Applied Sciences Weihenstephan Triesdorf
- Amy Oen - Norwegian Geotechnical Institut
- Rita Sousa Silva - Leiden University
- Tom Wild - University of Sheffield

ABSTRACT

This session interactively explores the potential of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in effectively supporting biodiversity and climate (transformative) action. Since its introduction, NbS have gained significant traction in both the public and private sectors as a means to safeguard biological diversity and its sustaining functions to integrate climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. NbS are also deemed to represent transformative actions, as they should allow addressing several societal challenges simultaneously. However, to date, only a few studies exist that assess NbS and their transformative potential, and how this transformation is laid out.

As an introduction to the session, results of our study are going to be presented, which suggest that this is a matter of addressing potential clashes across various (non-)action choices on NbS implementation for biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation. This especially applies when their implementation challenges existing mindsets, value systems, human-non-human-nature relationships and institutional barriers, and creates space(s) for new, collaborative governance approaches.

Many current environmental and planning decisions are shaped by long-standing perspectives, habits, power structures, and institutional rules that often reinforce an unsustainable status quo, failing to address complex problems. According to our collected insights, path dependencies and lock-ins refer to a combination of entrenched structural and cultural barriers, including rigid regulations and slow policy processes, conflicting mandates and poor coordination across governance levels, chronic underinvestment in maintenance, low awareness, and competing framings of NbS success that privilege short-term economic returns over ecological goals.

Following the introduction, a debate arena is set up to put our findings up to scrutiny and to get a further in-depth understanding on potential tough choices. The arena will be based on the house of commons approach. The aim is to spar over thought-provoking motions that explore the potential of Nature-based Solutions to address both the climate and biodiversity crises.

FORMAT

Workshop



WHOSE NATURE, WHOSE CITY? EXPLORING URBAN NATURE IMAGINARIES, GOVERNANCE AND TRANSFORMATIVE NBS

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Fiona Kinniburgh - University of Lisbon**
- Andresa Lêdo Marques - University of Lisbon
- Olivia Bina - University of Lisbon
- Johannes Stripple - Lund University
- Anna Davies - Trinity College Dublin
- Mairéad O'Donnell - Trinity College Dublin
- Lisette van Beek - Lund University

ABSTRACT

Urban nature and Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are increasingly promoted as responses to climate, biodiversity and social justice crises, yet they are mobilised through competing values, imaginaries and governance arrangements. A growing body of scholarship is increasingly calling for more eco-centric understandings of urban nature that foreground the intrinsic and relational values of ecosystems. Critical research highlights the social and political tensions surrounding NbS, including divergent priorities, problem framings, and interpretations of sustainability and justice. Urban nature imaginaries are understood as the narratives and discourses through which actors understand, interpret, and emotionally engage with the relationship between cities and nature, and envision possible urban nature futures.

Urban nature imaginaries are expressed in texts and images, and materialised through spatial configurations, scales and temporalities that translate values into priorities for protection, restoration, investment and care. As such, they mediate between climate adaptation and biodiversity goals – and distributional, procedural and recognitional justice concerns, potentially reinforcing dominant trajectories or opening space for more transformative futures. This symposium explores what urban nature imaginaries are, how they operate and shape the design, governance and everyday enactment of NbS, and how they travel between planning, policy, science, artistic and activist interventions, and situated practices of stewardship.

The session will take the form of a scientific symposium with short presentations followed by discussions. We welcome theoretical and conceptual contributions, comparative studies, and in-depth empirical cases. Interdisciplinary work is particularly encouraged, including perspectives from geography, urban planning, architecture, political science, political ecology, sociology, environmental humanities, Science and Technology Studies, arts and design, and futures studies. Contributions may address, for example: values and conflicts around urban nature and NbS; techniques and practices of imagining urban nature futures (modelling, scenarios, speculative-artistic practices); and co-creation, experimentation and stewardship arrangements that seek to rework dominant NbS imaginaries and their governance and justice implications.

FORMAT

Symposium

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

If you are interested in contributing to this session, you are welcome to apply through the [Call for Abstracts & Posters](#).

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TRANSFORMING NBS THINKING AND PRACTICE: ENGAGING IN DECOLONIAL, RELATIONAL, AND SITUATED KNOWLEDGES TO DEAL WITH THE POLYCRISIS

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Borjana Bogatinoska - University of Twente**
- Felice Diekel - University of Twente
- Lisa Waldenberger - BOKU University
- Katinka Wijsman - Utrecht University
- Janneke den Dekker-Arlain - Utrecht University
- Danick Trouwloon - Utrecht University
- Zoe Brown - Oxford University
- Rochine Steenkamp - University of Western Cape

ABSTRACT

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are increasingly promoted as responses to climate change, biodiversity loss, and wider environmental crises. However, the concept and practice of implementing NbS is not new, as climate at risk communities have already been adapting to climate change, before NbS was an academic term. What remains underexamined is an understanding of how NbS are implemented or approached to minimise injustices and particularly how pervasive colonial and neocolonial dynamics reproduce contestation (e.g. land grabbing or greenwashing) in the governance of NbS. Without a decolonial grounding, NbS can obscure underlying political tensions, unequal power relations, colonial histories, and competing understandings of nature and justice.

This session brings together critical perspectives that question dominant framings of NbS and explore more transformative alternatives. We invite contributions examining NbS through lenses such as decolonial justice, (eco-) feminist perspectives, intergenerational justice, multispecies justice, more-than-human relations, and relational logics. We are particularly interested in how NbS are shaped by structural inequalities, governance realities, and contested knowledge systems across different contexts, and accept conceptual, methodological or empirical contributions that constructively engage with decolonial, relational and situated knowledges. We also welcome work that explores new ways of researching, designing, and governing NbS through interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, participatory, artistic, and co-productive approaches. We ask: How can we move beyond token inclusion or disciplinary silos toward genuine epistemic and ontological change? What forms of knowledge, care, and responsibility are needed to engage with complex social-ecological crises?

Contributions may be conceptual, empirical, methodological, or practice-based. Case studies from all geographic regions are welcome. We encourage conventional presentations as well as creative and experimental formats, and welcome both abstract and poster submissions.

FORMAT

Symposium

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

If you are interested in contributing to this session, you are welcome to apply through the [Call for Abstracts & Posters](#).

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LEVERAGING THE DIVERSITY OF LIVING LAB APPROACHES FOR TRANSFORMATIVE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS: INSIGHTS AND PERSPECTIVES

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Marie-Jeanne Guenin – Maison des Sciences de l'Homme de Montpellier (MSH SUD)**
- Alan Vergnes – Université Paul Valéry – Montpellier 3
- Julien Mary – Université Paul Valéry – Montpellier 3

ABSTRACT

Living Labs (LLs) are increasingly recognized as powerful environments to co-design, test, and implement Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in close interaction with stakeholders. Nevertheless, LLs encompass a wide diversity of approaches, ranging from exploratory research platforms to fully operational implementation arenas. This diversity—across levels of participation, governance models, and implementation ambition—remains insufficiently explored, despite its critical role in shaping the success and impact of NbS.

This session invites contributions that explore how different Living Lab approaches can foster effective, inclusive, and scalable NbS. Building on the Solu-Biod network of Living Labs, the session will present a first synthesis of this diversity through a conceptual framework capturing gradients of stakeholder engagement and implementation pathways.

We welcome case studies from both Solu-Biod and external Living Labs (including international initiatives) that illustrate contrasting approaches, contexts, and outcomes. Contributions may address, but are not limited to :

- Methods for stakeholder engagement and co-production
- Governance and institutional arrangements
- Pathways from experimentation to implementation
- Monitoring, evaluation, and learning processes
- Barriers, trade-offs, and enabling conditions for NbS success

The session will combine short presentations with an interactive panel discussion, fostering dialogue between speakers and participants. It aims to generate cross-cutting insights and critical reflections on how methodological and contextual diversity can be mobilized as a strength to enhance NbS effectiveness and transformative potential.

By bringing together diverse experiences and perspectives, this session seeks to contribute to emerging debates on interdisciplinary, practice-oriented, and impact-driven approaches to NbS, and to identify key levers for scaling and sustaining their implementation.

FORMAT

Symposium

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

If you are interested in contributing to this session, you are welcome to apply through the [Call for Abstracts & Posters](#).

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ADOPTING A ONE HEALTH APPROACH FOR NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS: ADVANCING HEALTHIER FUTURES AT THE HUMAN-NATURE INTERFACE

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Rebecca G Tiernan - Arizona State University (ASU)**
- Nancy B Grimm - Arizona State University (ASU)
- James P Collins - Arizona State University (ASU)
- Bin Xue - Chongqing University

ABSTRACT

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) have many benefits; however, potential disservices and negative tradeoffs could arise from implementing them. For instance, NbS implementation could reduce disease transmission by increasing biodiversity (i.e., the dilution effect), but it could also have negative disease outcomes such as facilitating zoonotic disease spillover. Impacts of NbS on human disease outcomes have only recently entered NbS discourse. Environmental policymakers are now calling for the adoption of approaches like "One Health" (OH) when developing ecological interventions. OH recognizes human health, animal health, and ecosystem health as interconnected and interdependent. However, the ecosystem sphere of OH is not clearly defined. As OH gains traction in global policy discourse, we must think critically about what "health" in the ecosystem domain means and how it interacts across human and animal health domains.

In this workshop, we invite participants from all disciplines to participate in facilitated dialogues and brainstorming exercises to explore how NbS may affect health across the three domains of OH. Specifically, participants will discuss definitions of ecosystem health and consider appropriate indicators and assessment metrics for evaluating ecosystem health. They will develop a conceptual framework for the relationship between human wellbeing and nature in the context of NbS. Next, we will facilitate brainstorming exercises regarding what policy instruments, governance mechanisms, and institutions could be designed to enable collaboration between environmental and public health fields during NbS implementation processes.

This session will be interactive and hands-on, providing space for extended dialogue, networking, and creativity as we dig deeper into how to consider and apply OH to NbS. Participants will outline a conceptual framework that includes a vision and approach for applying OH thinking to NbS, with potential for publication by the group.

FORMAT

Workshop



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BEYOND IMPLEMENTATION: STEWARDSHIP AND GOVERNANCE OF NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR LONG-TERM URBAN TRANSFORMATION

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Hai-Ying Liu - NILU**
- Raimund Kemper - IFSAR Institute for Social Work and Social Spaces – OST
- Barbara Sowińska-Świerkosz - University of Life Sciences in Lublin

ABSTRACT

Despite rapid advances in the planning and implementation of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) over the past decade, their long-term performance often declines due to fragmented governance, insufficient maintenance, and weak institutional embedding. This session focuses on a critical yet underexplored phase: the post-implementation stewardship and governance of NBS as dynamic socio-ecological systems.

Building on insights from the Biodiversa+ NatureScope project and related research, the session highlights that NbS outcomes depend less on initial design than on how knowledge, responsibility, and care are organized and sustained over time. Urban NbS commonly face persistent challenges after implementation, including unclear responsibilities, limited monitoring, and declining stakeholder engagement. At the same time, stewardship is often reduced to technical maintenance, overlooking its broader social-ecological dimensions and implications for equity and long-term effectiveness.

The session invites interdisciplinary contributions that: (1) conceptualize NbS as evolving socio-ecological systems requiring adaptive and collaborative governance; (2) examine stewardship as a key but undervalued governance function; (3) analyze governance fragmentation, epistemic injustice, and stakeholder dynamics; (4) present empirical insights from urban contexts; and (5) explore mechanisms to support long-term stewardship and scaling.

The session is open to abstract and poster submissions. We welcome contributions from researchers, practitioners, and policymakers, including empirical studies, conceptual advances, and case-based insights aligned with these themes.

The 2-hour symposium will combine invited and selected presentations, followed by a moderated discussion to foster exchange across disciplines and sectors. It aims to advance the state of the art by strengthening the focus on stewardship, institutional embedding, and long-term sustainability of NbS.

FORMAT

Symposium

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

If you are interested in contributing to this session, you are welcome to apply through the [Call for Abstracts & Posters](#).

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ALLEVIATING TENSIONS IN PERI-URBAN CLIMATE ADAPTATION: THE GOVERNMENT AS FACILITATOR OF NATURE-BASED SMALL WINS

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Sverre van Klaveren - Wageningen University & Research**
- Sandra van Liere - Wageningen University & Research

ABSTRACT

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) hold significant potential to address climate adaptation and biodiversity challenges, yet their transformative impact often hinges less on technical design and more on the social and institutional processes surrounding them. This session explores how governance arrangements, actor dynamics, and local socio political contexts shape the emergence, depth, and longevity of NbS, particularly in peri urban settings where land use pressures, competing interests, and institutional fragmentation are pronounced.

We draw from empirical insights on Dutch –on cases and practices, the session examines how discourses, resource configurations, rules, and actor coalitions can either cultivate or constrain the development of “small wins”: locally grounded, socially valued interventions with the potential to accumulate into larger system change. We draw from research that has been submitted recently as a research paper to the Elsevier NBS journal and the Dutch NL2120 program. We aim to compare and supplement this by governance researchers with similar or contrasting research. The session is open to submissions, and we invite potential contributors to propose their work.

The session’s objectives are to reveal how governance can facilitate small but meaningful NbS, to critically reflect on conditions that undermine their transformative potential, and to highlight why inclusive, multi-level stakeholder engagement is essential for lasting legitimacy. By connecting governance theory with practical NbS cases, this session contributes an underexplored, interdisciplinary perspective on how transformation is enacted through everyday decisions, conflicts, and collaborations. The discussion is relevant for the Congress’s aim to understand how social processes and institutional dynamics shape the success, scalability, and societal acceptance of NbS.

FORMAT

Symposium

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

If you are interested in contributing to this session, you are welcome to apply through the [Call for Abstracts & Posters](#).



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NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING: INFORMAL, ORGANISED, AND THERAPEUTIC APPROACHES

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Richard Belcher- University of Kent**
- Anna María Pálsdóttir- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
- Helen Vada Susan Cole – Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
- Antonella Crichigno – Old Continent Agency
- Giuseppina Pennisi –University of Bologna

ABSTRACT

Nature-based Solutions are increasingly promoted as responses to intertwined environmental and public health challenges, including growing concern around mental health and wellbeing. Relevant evidence and practice span the broad green care spectrum, including 1) everyday experiences of green and blue spaces, 2) organised nature-based health promotion activities, and 3) more intensive nature-based therapeutic approaches.

This session invites contributions addressing mental health and wellbeing and nature-based solutions across the green care spectrum. It offers a platform for sharing evidence, methods, and perspectives from different disciplines and fields of practice, and for considering what they reveal about mechanisms, populations reached, forms of engagement, equity implications, and routes to implementation. We welcome contributions spanning conceptual development, evidence synthesis and review work, qualitative and mixed-methods research, environmental epidemiology, survey-based analyses of nature engagement, wellbeing, and inequality, place-based analyses of access, quality, and nature provision, intervention and evaluation research, study design for nature-based therapies and health promotion, and governance and organisational models for green care.

We are particularly interested in work that addresses social inequalities in access, participation, and benefit, or considers how evidence can inform more equitable planning, access, and integration into healthcare systems. By bringing together perspectives from public health, environmental epidemiology, environmental psychology, landscape architecture, planning, ecology, and practice, the session will offer a focused interdisciplinary space for sharing research and reflecting on common challenges and opportunities for policy, practice, and future research.

FORMAT

Symposium

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

If you are interested in contributing to this session, you are welcome to apply through the [Call for Abstracts & Posters](#).



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SCALING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS THROUGH SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE: A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT LANDSCAPES

HOST AND CO-HOST

- **Faizah Slehat - IUCN**

ABSTRACT

Despite growing global investment in Nature-based Solutions (NbS), many projects struggle to scale or sustain impact beyond pilot phases. While this challenge is often framed in technical or financial terms, emerging evidence suggests that social infrastructure –trust, cooperation, governance structures, and collective agency– plays a decisive role in determining whether NbS interventions persist and scale. This session examines the role of social infrastructure as a critical but under-recognized enabler of NbS success, drawing on empirical experience from Wadi Seer, Jordan, one of the most water-scarce regions globally. Through the AlMurunah project, supported by UK International Development and implemented by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), NbS interventions have moved beyond conventional infrastructure rehabilitation to embed water management within cooperative governance, household engagement, and community-led stewardship. Early results demonstrate the potential of this integrated approach: more than 3,000 people supported, a 30% reduction in water scarcity, 36 hectares placed under sustainable land and water management, and 98% local ownership of long-term maintenance. Importantly, qualitative and participatory monitoring also indicates a reduction in water-related tensions and increased collective action among local stakeholders, suggesting that social cohesion can be both an outcome and a driver of NbS effectiveness. Bringing together policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and community representatives, this interactive session will explore a central question: How can NbS projects systematically design, measure, and finance social infrastructure as a prerequisite for scaling landscape-level resilience?

Participants will collaboratively develop a “Social Infrastructure Audit” framework—a practical methodological tool for integrating social resilience indicators into NbS design, monitoring and evaluation systems, and investment criteria. By grounding the discussion in real-world application and cross-sector dialogue, the session aims to advance replicable methodologies for scaling NbS in climate-vulnerable contexts, particularly across water-scarce and socially complex landscapes.

FORMAT

Workshop



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