



Network
Nature



Online event

NBS private sector upscaling and capacity building

18 November 9-12 CET



Funded by
the European Union

Rationale and expected output of the event



There is a growing recognition that nature-based solutions (NBS) - here defined as solutions inspired and supported by nature, which are cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience ([European Commission 2020](#)) - can help provide viable solutions to a broad range of societal challenges linked to climate, biodiversity and health issues. Among others, NBS can contribute to reducing natural hazards and to accelerate the transformation to climate resilient societies. However, to realize their full potential, NBS must be mainstreamed into local, national, and international governance regimes, including regulatory and financial procedures, as well as into risk management, land use, and spatial planning strategies. For this to happen a necessary pre-requisite is the availability of expertise and knowledge to design, plan and implement NBS. This is often reported as one of the main barriers to NBS implementation.

The ambition of this event is to better understand how to fill this gap by addressing questions such as: What is the potential of firms specializing in NBS across Europe? What barriers and opportunities do conventional construction firms see in expanding their expertise? What NBS capacities need to be built? What are the priorities? How can public authorities foster synergies between different types of expertise? How do contractors define gaps for NBS projects preparation? What type of facility could support them? Are there policies in place that hinder or support NBS private sector upscaling?

By addressing these questions, EU-funded projects NetworkNature and PHUSICOS aim to identify options for NBS policy and financing transition pathways.

08:45-09:00	Welcome
09:00-09:15	Welcome and NBS Policy Business Forum presentation Anna Scolobig (University of Geneva), Joanne Linnerooth-Bayer and Juliette Martin (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis) Victoria Blessing (Network Nature)
09:15-09:30	NBS enterprises: success factors, enablers and barriers Esmee Kooijman, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
09:30-09:45	NBS capacity building - – How to ensure high-quality NbS Dorsa Sheikholeslami, Nature-based Solutions Programme Officer, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Gland Switzerland
09:45-10:30	Developing capacities for private sector upscaling Thematic session 1
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-10:55	Case study: The experience of Geneva river renaturation projects Nathalie Nyssen, Firmenich Geneva Switzerland
10:55-11.05	Case study: NBS as a landscape and public space strategy Annelies De Nijs, Agenceter Paris France
11:05-11:15	The role of insurance to protect natural assets and enable more nature-based solutions Elaine O'Brien, SwissRe, Zurich Switzerland
11:15-11.45	De-risking NBS Thematic session 2
11:45-12:00	Concluding remarks



Background

This event is organised by EU-funded projects PHUSICOS and NetworkNature, it marks the third event of the NBS Policy Business Forum (PBF) and is part of the NetworkNature webinar series.

[PHUSICOS](#) aims to demonstrate how NBS can provide robust, sustainable and cost-effective measures for reducing the risk of extreme weather events in rural mountain landscapes. The PHUSICOS deliverables, policy briefs and synthesis of the first and second workshops of the PBF are available [here](#).

[NetworkNature](#) supports the NBS community to maximise impact and create opportunities across science, policy and practice to maximise the impact and spread of nature-based solutions.



Anticipated effects of the event:

Contributing to the academic and public debate with a publication of key results

Getting the message out to policymakers and the general public

[Register here](#)

Session Abstracts



Nature-based Enterprises: Definition, Barriers and Enablers

Esmee Kooijman, Researcher at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

Over the last years, the demand for nature-based solutions has increased. However, private sector supply of such solutions is still lacking behind. This presentation provides an overview of 'nature-based enterprises', which are driven by a clear mission to work with and for nature to address climate change and biodiversity challenges. These type of enterprises are active across many different economic sectors, from *smart technologies* to *ecosystem restoration*. In addition, the presentation will discuss barriers for the start-up and growth of nature-based enterprises, and will highlight recommendations and tools to overcome these.

NbS capacity building – How to ensure high-quality NbS

Dorsa Sheikholeslami, Nature-based Solutions Programme Officer, IUCN, Gland Switzerland

Since the global recognition of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) with the adoption of the multilaterally agreed definition at the Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5), now is the time to boost their implementation at scale to the benefit of nature and people. This presentation will provide an overview of IUCN work on mainstreaming and uptake of NbS, in particular to strengthen the private sector engagement in sustainable development and to support them in achieving their climate and biodiversity targets. This presentation will also highlight the importance of international cooperation and collaboration, showcasing outcomes of EU-funded projects such as NetworkNature and CLEARINGHOUSE.

Session Abstracts



Case study: NBS as a landscape and public space strategy

Annelies De Nijs, Agenceter Paris France

In landscape architecture and territorial design, NBS are being implemented more substantially in the design projects. The point of view from the designer, as someone who will reshape a territory and a living environment for its inhabitants, is therefore crucial. While leaving behind the strict problem-solving attitude, often responded to with a technical solution, a design project can create opportunities to transform a space and integrate other (ecological, recreational, educational, ...) aspects. From experiences in various contexts, Agence Ter will showcase some project experiences where particular hazards, public spaces or design processes have given way to innovative solutions in the field. The different challenges and opportunities will be discussed.



Case study: The experience of Geneva river renaturation projects

Nathalie Nyssen, Firmenich, Geneva Switzerland

The case study focuses on river renaturation program in Geneva, a precursor in the field. The Law on Water amended in 1997 alongside the provisioning of a fund and the competencies centralized in the Cantonal Renaturation Agency has allowed to have extended implementation with more than 100 projects for most rivers in the Canton and to guarantee protection from major flood risk by 2023. Moreover, the necessary coordination with France to cover the full watershed of the rivers has been initiated since 1995, to match the geophysical reality of risks beyond national borders. This will be illustrated by both upscale and downscale benefits with (1) the Swiss national regulating framework being inspired by the canton's regulation and (2) a concrete example of a company investing in a mixed grey and NBS flood protection thanks to the mandatory flood risk assessment.

Session Abstracts



The role of insurance to protect natural assets and enable more nature-based solutions

Cherie Gray, Global Lead Sustainability & Market Development, Swiss Re

More than half the world's GDP (\$44 trillion), is dependent on nature and the services that it provides. Hence, we should value and protect natural assets and eco-services in the same way we value, protect and insure other property, infrastructure and services. Insurance absorbs the shocks and costs of the unexpected, and helps remove risk and build resilience - which can make investment in nature-positive initiatives more attractive. This presentation provides examples of different applications of insurance to protect natural assets and enable more nature-based solutions.

[**Register here**](#)