



Digest

JULY 2022

Nature-based Solutions: **working together**

An update from NetworkNature
and the NBS Cluster Task Forces



Network
Nature

NetworkNature Task Forces

Providing a space for dialogue and exchange
for the nature-based solutions community



The NetworkNature Team

As the nature-based solutions community, it is in our nature to network. By reaching out and collaborating we know we can achieve much more than we ever could working in isolation.



Thank you to everybody who has contributed and keep on collaborating!

We might aspire to be network superstars, cooperating to be greater than the sum of our parts. But in reality, it's not that easy! We all work hard on projects and especially over the previous two years have missed meeting each other in-person at events where we can make new connections and explore opportunities to collaborate.

The European Union Task Forces for nature-based solutions are providing flexible spaces where nature-based solution professionals are collaborating on projects, developing authentic, meaningful relationships and working together towards common goals.

There's so much fantastic work going on but this is sometimes hidden in the Task Force groups on NetworkNature, in regular task force meetings and in numerous email chains and side discussions. The NetworkNature Digest aims to bring this work into the light.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of the Digest which features an update from the European Commission; an invitation to the annual NetworkNature event; a task force member profile; individual task force updates; news about collaborative initiatives and more.



An update from the European Commission



Julie Delcroix, *Policy Officer, DG Research & Innovation*
Sofie Vandewoestijne, *Research Programme Officer*

European Research Executive Agency

The nature-based solutions (NBS) community of Horizon projects keeps on growing! The first (2016) projects are ending but there are many new opportunities within the Horizon Framework Programme and beyond. Many of the project and Task Force outputs are fast becoming references among the EU science, policy and practice communities and beyond. This takes a lot of effort from everyone involved, and we would very much like to thank you and express our appreciation to you for this. ❤️

To ensure that we continue to move the NBS Research and Innovation agenda forward as effectively and far as possible, we would like to remind you all of some of the principles of the EU funded Horizon projects.

1. Adhere to the EC definition of nature-based solutions

“Solutions that are inspired and supported by nature, which are cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience. Such solutions bring more, and more diverse, nature and natural features and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes, through locally adapted, resource-efficient and systemic interventions.”

Nature-based solutions must therefore benefit biodiversity and support the delivery of a range of ecosystem services.

NBS has moved up the agenda in recent years, thanks to your great work. The [UNEA Resolution](#) is a great example, and **it incorporates the essential components of the EC NBS definition**: including, “simultaneously providing environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience” and “must also benefit biodiversity and support the delivery of a range of ecosystem services”, ensuring that NBS will be “supported by nature” and will bring “more, and more diverse, nature and natural features and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes”; as well as other essential principles, including “systemic interventions”, “cost-effective” and “resource-efficient”; and “locally adapted”.

Finally, the ‘UNEA resolution also calls on UNEP to support the implementation of NBS, with **“next steps”** that are of particularly relevant to the work of the H2020 and Horizon Europe NBS project portfolio: “compile examples of **best practices**, based on best available science, of nature-based solutions”; “ assess existing and discuss possible new proposals, **criteria, standards and guidelines**”; “Identify options for supporting **sustainable investments** in nature-based solutions”.

This is great recognition of the importance of the work you’re all doing!

2. Build on previous and ongoing NBS Task Forces and workstreams

All Horizon funded projects are contributing to common goals, hence the establishment of the Task Forces – to create greater outputs than each of the parts.

Please ensure that the projects build on existing outputs and ongoing work, including:

- Using the **identified challenges** and as many **core indicators** as possible from [Evaluating the impact of nature-based solutions – A handbook for practitioners and annexes](#).



- **For Urban NBS, check the typologies** developed by [Nature4Cities](#) and **THINK NATURE**, or more specifically on [urban forest NBS by ClearingHouse](#), and for ecosystem typology, use [MAES classification](#).
- **Use and build on existing material** produced on NBS living labs, financing NBS, barriers for markets, NBS values, public procurement and more. NetworkNature has collated the most relevant NBS resources which can all be found in the [NetworkNature resources library](#).



3. Use the power of the R&I community and nature-based solution platforms to disseminate your outcomes

- Share your [resources](#) and [case studies](#) with [Oppla](#). These are then automatically shared with Network Nature and other knowledge platforms through the Oppla **Application Programming Interface (API)**: allowing other websites to search, access and update content hosted on Oppla or NetworkNature. The API is available as a free and open-source product and is already used by several Horizon NBS project platforms. [Get in touch with Oppla](#) to integrate the API with your project website.
- Join the NetworkNature [#NatureFact social media campaign](#) to help raise awareness about NBS and your project outcomes! We will create a visual for your #Naturefact and share it via NetworkNature channels. Contact hello@networknature.eu to learn more.
- Create a [NetworkNature project group](#). Project groups bring together case studies, resources and news in a convenient and accessible archive. If you'd like to develop a group on NetworkNature get in touch at: hello@networknature.eu.

Towards the new European Roadmap for Research and Innovation on nature-based solutions: Taking stock of European support to R&I on NBS so far



Frédéric Lemaitre
Biodiversa+



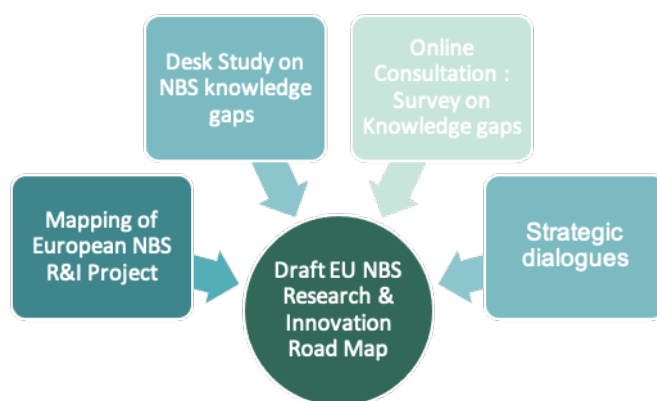
Mariem EL Harrak
Biodiversa+

For those of you having followed NetworkNature for a while, and notably our consultation knowledge gaps and subsequent session at the 2021 NetworkNature annual event, you will know we are facilitating the co-development of the European roadmap for R&I on NBS together with the European Commission, which is planned for publication in May 2023.

With the first draft of this roadmap underway and upcoming opportunities to feedback over this summer and fall 2022, this article highlights some key results of the mapping of EU R&I projects that contributed to the first draft's development.

The European roadmap for R&I on NBS builds on a number of NetworkNature's activities to take stock of European-level R&I support and knowledge needs on NBS (see *Figure 1*), including the mapping of EU R&I projects on NBS and the collection of key knowledge gaps on NBS from literature and stakeholder dialogues, presented under a dedicated [database of knowledge gaps on NBS](#).

Figure 1: Process towards the development of a first draft of the European Roadmap for R&I on NBS





Approach to mapping EU R&I projects on NBS

The mapping of EU R&I projects allowed us to set the scene of what R&I has been supported so far at European level on NBS. It was conducted on major European research and innovation or implementation programmes: BiodivERSA, Horizon 2020, Seventh framework programme (FP7), Interreg and LIFE (EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action) over the years 2011–2021. Their project databases were screened using two successive keyword searches ('biodiversity' and then 'services and approaches') on the title and abstract of each project, and results were screened manually to retain NBS-relevant projects using criteria derived from the [European Commission's definition](#).

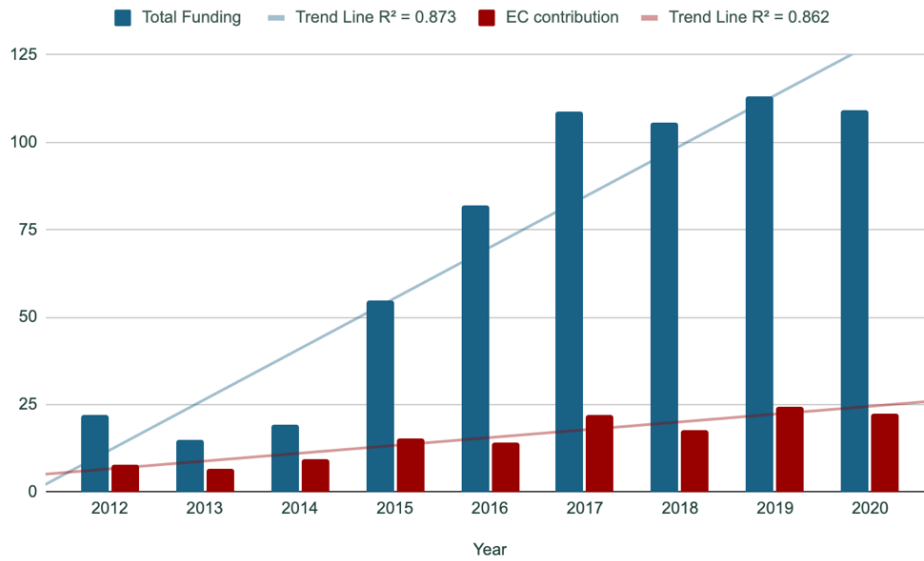
Beginning with more than 60,000 projects, the resulting database of NBS projects is composed of 262 projects with 101 projects from H2020 and FP7, 35 NBS projects from BiodivERSA, 87 NBS projects from Interreg and 39 NBS projects from LIFE Climate Change Adaptation stream (the only stream we could analyze from LIFE at the time of the development of the first roadmap draft – to be completed with other streams by fall 2022).

Key results of the mapping of EU R&I projects on NBS

The mapping of projects first revealed an increase in funding from 2011 to 2017 for NBS projects in the European programmes considered, from fewer than 25M euros to more than 100M euros per year (*Figure 2*). From 2017 onward, a plateau was reached above 100M euros per year. The same trend can be observed for the number of projects funded per year, with the number of projects trebling in 6 years and reaching about 30 projects funded per year from 2017 onward.



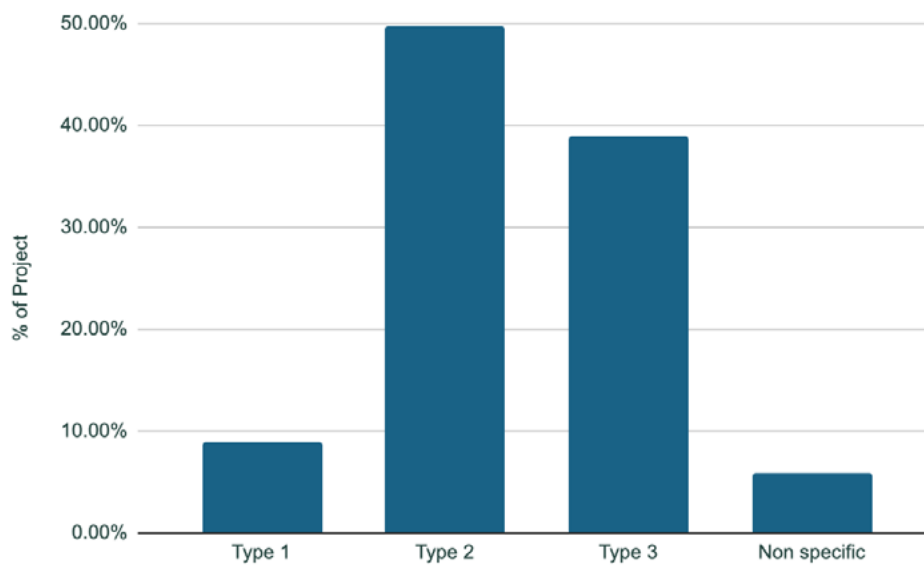
Figure 2: Funding in million euros of NBS Projects per Year, rolling 3 year average



The database of projects was categorized using multiple typologies, allowing us to derive some key findings.

As presented in *Figure 3*, the most studied type of NBS¹ in these projects are solutions based on developing sustainable management protocols and procedures for managed or restored ecosystems (type 2) with nearly 50% of all projects, followed by solutions that involve creating new ecosystems (type 3) with 39% and by solutions that involve making better use of existing natural or protected ecosystems (type 1) with 10% of projects.

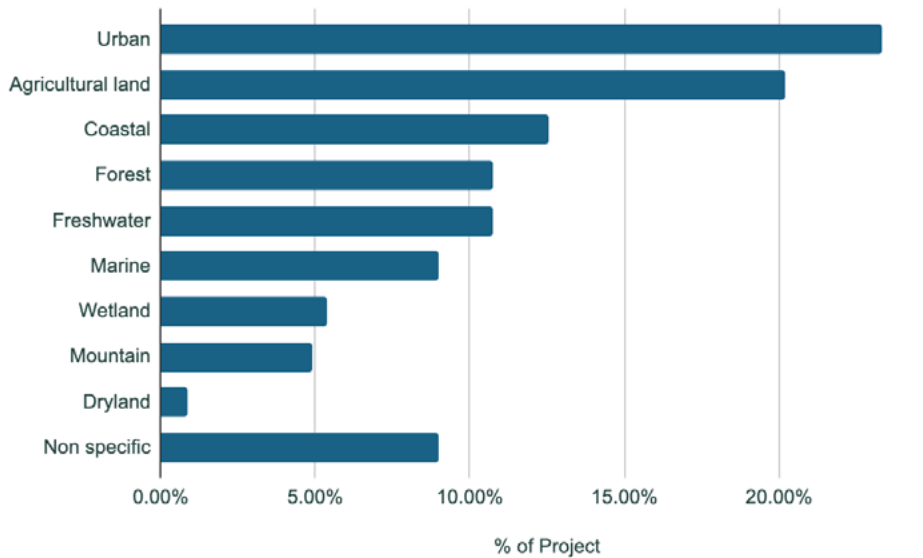
Figure 3: Types of NBS (Sum > 100% 1 project could be categorized in multiple categories)



1 According to typology from Eggermont et al 2015 (<https://doi.org/10.14512/gaia.24.4.9>)

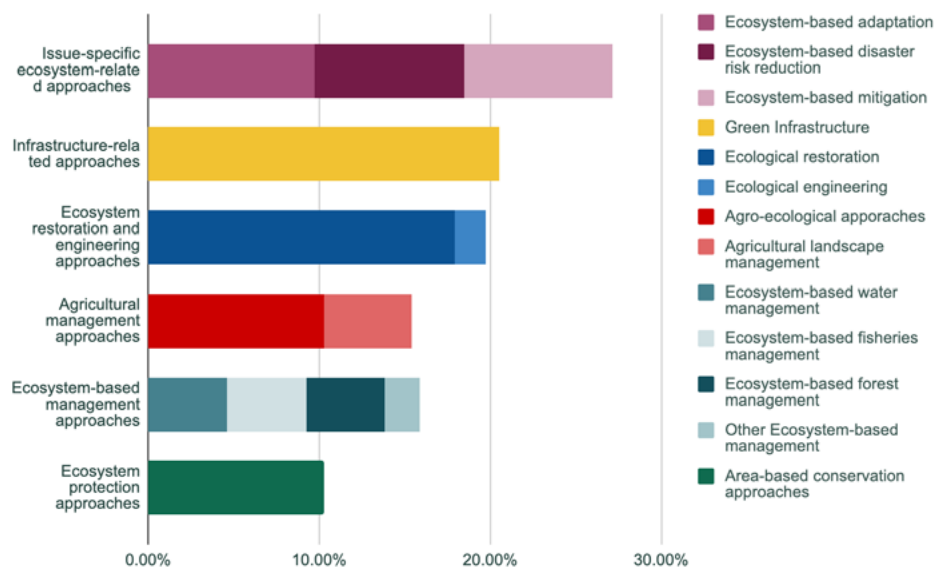
Interestingly, looking at the type of environments in these projects showed that the most represented are urban and agricultural land, with respectively 23% and 20% of all projects, followed by coastal and forest environments, representing 12.5% and 11% of the projects as shown in *Figure 4*.

Figure 4: *Types of environment (Sum > 100% 1 project could be categorized in multiple categories)*



In addition, we looked into the types of approaches studied, using a typology adapted from the IUCN². *Figure 5* shows that the most studied approaches in these projects were issue-specific ecosystem-related approaches regrouping ecosystem-based adaptation, mitigation, and disaster risk reduction, with 27% of all projects. In these, the most considered specific approaches were Green Infrastructure and Ecological restoration, representing respectively 20.5% and 18% of all projects.

Figure 5: *Types of approaches (Sum > 100% 1 project could be categorized in multiple categories)*



2 Cohen-Shacham et al, 2016 (<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2016-036.pdf>)



This mapping helps highlight interesting trends in EU-level support to R&I on NBS and shed a unique light on the profile of NBS studied at this level. These also provide a sound starting point for highlighting the respective niches and complementarities of the different programmes considered.

This work is one of the many steps NetworkNature is taking to facilitate the development of the EU R&I roadmap on NBS. We will soon release the database of projects on which this analysis was conducted on the NetworkNature platform, and if you're interested in contributing, stay tuned in the coming months for announcements of:

- i) A public consultation on the first draft of the roadmap will open between August – September 2022.**
- ii) The [NetworkNature annual event](#) on 27 September 2022, which will include a specific session on the roadmap development.**



Nature-based solution hubs



Anna Bruen
Officer, Sustainable Resource Management and Integrated Service Solutions
ICLEI Europe

Nature-based solutions are increasingly sought to address both climate-change related and urban challenges within and beyond municipal boundaries. To support the uptake of nature-based solutions by landowners, policy-makers, and citizen groups within Europe, NetworkNature is partnering with groups in three regions/countries this Fall to launch nature-based solution hubs – in Nordic Europe, Hungary, and Portugal to address local issues such as blue/green infrastructure, citizen engagement and awareness, and removing barriers for politicians and administrations to implement nature-based solution.

The nature-based solutions hubs will formalise the collaborative work between organisations and networks at local, regional and national levels. Collaboration within the hubs will support partners' capacity building, knowledge exchange with other actors and develop new partnerships for action. NetworkNature will explore how to connect work of its hubs with others in Europe established under the [UrbanByNature programme](#) within the [Connecting Nature](#) project.

Learn more at the NetworkNature Annual Event and stay tuned for details about the hub launch events.

Task Force 1 update

Data and Knowledge Sharing



Jonathan Porter

Oppla

Task Force 1 has completed the work to co-produce a Shared Data Management Plan.

This plan has been developed to support collaboration between research and innovation projects supported by the European Commission. It is intended to support collaboration rather than be prescriptive, working alongside the individual data management plans developed by individual projects.

The plan supports the principles that data should be findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable (FAIR) as a framework to follow when designing a Data Management Plan.

The plan is structured around six core principles, highlighting that nature-based solutions projects should...

- share data and knowledge under open licences where possible.
- share case studies that describe the implementation of nature-based solutions.
- create metadata that clearly describes the scope, structure and content of any shared datasets.
- clearly document the processing methods that were used to create data and knowledge.
- identify in their data management plans the level of access to data and knowledge products.
- consider whether free and open-source software can be used and developed to support innovation.

The plan is a live document that will be improved and enhanced by members of the Task Force.

The upcoming focus of Task Force 1 is the development of a shared metadata structure. The testing and development of the shared metadata template is being led by [URBAN GreenUP](#), [URBiNAT](#) and [PONDERFUL projects](#) with the support of other members of the Task Force.

Task Force 2 update

Integrated Assessment Framework



TF2 is working towards delivering major goals to advance the NBS work this 2022!

Four H2020 projects - Naturvation, UnaLab, Grow Green, Connecting Nature and UrbanGreenUP – are joining forces to go through a thorough assessment exercise to present the monitoring and impact results of their actions. The [Handbook for NBS Impact evaluation](#) is at the core of this exercise which will be a learning and transferable experience to other EU funded projects.

This work will open a dialogue and other projects will be invited to follow the same procedure when identifying major barriers and opportunities. This work will also further promote the visibility and use of the Handbook, including [summary for policy makers](#). Interested in knowing more? The forthcoming NetworkNature TF Cluster meeting in September will be an opportunity to exchange with the members of these four pioneering projects!



—
Veronica Ruiz Garcia
IUCN
—

In addition, colleagues involved in our workstream on “NBS & Biodiversity” are working through over 10 thematic working groups – bringing together diverse H2020 and Biodiversa projects from Research & Innovation programmes to explore the relevant evaluation indicators for measuring the impact of nature-based solutions on biodiversity across diverse contexts.

The aim of this joint work is to develop a mini-Handbook on “NBS & Biodiversity” through a co-production process, to review the handbook biodiversity evaluation metric and supplement these with additional metrics of relevance to the difference themes. If you are interested in contributing please contact [Esther San José](#), [Raúl Sánchez](#) and [Stuart Connop](#).

Task Force 3 update

Governance, Business Models and Financial Mechanisms



Daniela Rizzi, Phd

Senior officer for Nature-based Solutions, Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity

ICLEI Europe



Esmee Koojiman

Researcher Nature

Entrepreneurship & Finance at the Centre for Social Innovation (CSI),
Trinity Business School, Trinity College Dublin



Siobhan McQuaid

Associate Director Innovation

Centre for Social Innovation (CSI),
Trinity Business School, Trinity College Dublin

High interest in new publication on NBS in nature-positive economy

At the end of April, the European Commission Directorate-General for Research & Innovation released an independent expert report “**The vital role of nature-based solutions in a nature positive economy**”. Since publication, this report has generated considerable interest and in just ten weeks has become the most downloaded resource from the [EC’s NBS page](#) as well as from [NetworkNature’s resources page](#). A link to the report is available [here](#).



This publication addresses knowledge gaps in the potential economic benefits of NBS and the challenges facing Nature-Based Enterprises (NBE). It profiles some of the economic activities where NBE are engaged in the delivery of NBS – generating new jobs and skills, innovations, and wider economic impacts through a nature-based approach that respects the needs of the environment and communities. It examines some of the key issues confronting stakeholders: Standards, Measurement & Valuation, Multi-level, cross-sectoral policy frameworks, Investment in NBS, Development of sector-specific supports, Capacity building and awareness. Such challenges are addressed head-on, informing recommendations for relevant stakeholders on how to realise the transition to a nature-positive economy with NBS and NBE at the core.

The report is aimed specifically at economic policy makers but is of high relevance for policy makers across multiple domains, public sector institutions and agencies, researchers, civil society and NGO representatives, investors and financial institutions, industry and NBE delivering NBS.

The key messages of the publication are:

- 1.** First of all, we need a fundamental shift in economic thinking and policy, away from resource intensive business-as-usual approaches and towards new types of economic activity that put nature and people first. These activities can simultaneously achieve conventional economic goals, such as the creation of jobs and wealth.
- 2.** Secondly, large scale investment in nature-based solutions (and nature-based enterprises) has the potential to drive the transition towards a nature positive economy. But as yet it is largely unexplored.
- 3.** Finally, the transition towards a nature-based economy must clearly value communities, culture, and traditions and above all, lead to the restoration of nature and biodiversity.



This publication addresses knowledge gaps in the potential economic benefits of NBS and the challenges facing Nature-Based Enterprises (NBE).

*PARADIGM SHIFT TOWARDS
A NATURE POSITIVE ECONOMY*

- 1. Standards**
- 2. Measurement & Valuation**
- 3. Multi-level, cross-sectoral policy frameworks**
- 4. Investment in NBS**
- 5. Development of sector support**
- 6. Capacity building and awareness**

CO-CREATION

This publication was prepared by core members of the Nature-based Economy Working Group of Task Force 3 “Governance, Business Models and Financial Mechanisms” of the European Commission. The members of this group contributed their expert opinions based on a review of relevant literature and from various reports and case studies collected across EU funded NBS demonstration actions. In the last issue of NetworkNature’s Digest, we mentioned the [TNOC virtual roundtable on the nature-based economy](#) and the analysis of 100+ responses on a [public consultation on the White Paper on the Nature-Based Economy](#), which was published last summer. These two documents provided input for this European Commission Expert Publication.



The NBE Working Group is participating in numerous events to disseminate the report's key findings (see the list below). A video is under production as well to convey the main messages of the publication.

If you would like to receive further information or updates, please contact us directly via daniela.rizzi@iclei.org, chair of the Nature-based Economy Working Group from Task Force 3.

June 9	IESE Business School
June 16 – 17	URBiNAT conference
June 20	Green Economy Exchange Forum
June 21	Working Group of the CBD 4 & Leaders Pledge for Nature
July 7	Cyprus Institute Climate Change Meda & Middle East
July 20	Curso de verano “Ciudades ante los Límites al Crecimiento: Soluciones Basadas en la Naturaleza”
September 7 – 8	SCC2 Policy Event, Brussels & UNaLAB closing event
September 14 – 15	European Urban Resilience Forum 2022
September 21	NBE concept and the links to/potential for standards development in CEN/TC 465
September 10 – 24	First edition of the biennale of urban landscapes
September 26 – 28	NetworkNature Annual Event 2022
September 28	NetworkNature Task Forces Cluster Meeting

TASK FORCE MEMBER PROFILE

Maria Cuenca

Member of: **Task Force 2: Integrated Assessment Framework** and **Task Force 3: Governance, Business Models and Financial Mechanisms**



Hi Maria, please could you tell us a little about yourself?

Hi! I am Maria. I'm an aquatic ecologist specializing in zooplankton communities, eco-evolutionary dynamics, trophic interactions, and ecosystem functions. My research focuses on understanding the impact of human-driven global change on species and ecosystems, with particular attention on freshwater ecosystems.

Maria Cuenca Cambronero
Senior Postdoc at
PONDERFUL project (H202)


University of Vic
<https://ponderful.eu>

What interests you most about the work of the two task forces you are involved in?

Task forces make the link about the implementation and evaluation of NBS in different ecosystems. I am especially interested in the implementation of ponds as NBS.

What nature-based solutions projects are you currently working on?

Currently, I am involved in [PONDERFUL project](https://ponderful.eu). PONDERFUL aims to increase our knowledge on how to manage and restore ponds to maximize their role as nature-based solutions for biodiversity conservation, delivery of ecosystem services as well as for society and ecosystem resilience to climate change. Different NBS are being implemented and tested in 20 ponds across eight DEMO-sites. Implementation is being conducted both at the local scale (pond) and at the regional scale (network of ponds). The main types of NBS that are being assessed are pond creation and restoration as well as pond and ponscape management actions (within the ponds, or on areas surrounding the ponds).

A scenic view of a pond with lily pads and a forest in the background. The pond is surrounded by lush greenery and trees, with a clear blue sky and white clouds reflected in the water. In the foreground, there are tall green reeds and lily pads with white flowers. The background shows a dense forest of evergreen and deciduous trees under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The water is calm, reflecting the sky and the surrounding landscape.

My research focuses on understanding the impact of human-driven global change on species and ecosystems, with particular attention on freshwater ecosystems.

Different NBS are being implemented and tested in 20 pondscapes across eight DEMO-sites.

The way towards high quality NBS and standards: What we've learned so far

Online Event

26 July 2022

9:30am – 11:30am CEST

NetworkNature is a resource for the nature-based solutions community, creating opportunities for local, regional and international cooperation to maximise the impact and spread of nature-based solutions. NetworkNature highlights a timely topic in the nature-based solutions field with its semester themes, identified in consultation with the nature-based solutions community.

The current theme is 'Nature-based solutions and Standards' covering quality aspects of NBS planning and implementation. We will discuss what are the criteria of high-quality NBS, how NBS quality is measured, reported and monitored.

In this workshop, you'll learn about:

- 1.** The work Network Nature is doing to promote standardization processes for high-quality NBS
- 2.** The results of a public questionnaire that was launched to co-determining the quality and standards of NBS
- 3.** Case studies of high quality NBS
- 4.** Case studies relating to the NBS Standards
- 5.** IUCN Global Standards: The Mediterranean perspective

Speakers:

- **Dr. Dora Almassy;** Sustainability Researcher, PhD in Environmental Sciences and Policy
- **Ángela Matesanz Parellada;** Researcher on Climate Change at Tecnalia Research & Innovation
- **Efrén Feliu Torres;** Climate Change Adaptation Manager at Tecnalia Research & Innovation



[Find out more and register](#)

Call for papers:

Urban Forestry & Urban Greening



Israa H. Mahmoud, Ph.D. MSc.

Post-Doc and CLEVER Cities research leader

www.labsimurb.polimi.it/about-2/people/israa-mahmoud

The experience of NBS in place is now mature with numerous applications. However, the question of the added value in terms of innovation in the so far applied solutions arises. This special issue aims to collect best practices on how technologies, in different ways, can enhance the performance and impact of NBS. Specifically, can technologies augment NBS, towards a more radical symbiosis of green and digital cities? Can we benefit from measuring NBS for developing successful and innovative management and business models of urban green, and support sound decision- and policy making, which is often problematic to local government? What are the multiple impacts delivered by hybrid green and digital solutions, how to measure them and eventually how to monetize them?



In particular, the following explorations around technology in and for NBS are relevant for this special issue:

1. Technology in Green: Embedding technologies inside NBS could increase its environmental performance and social impact; for instance, environmental sensors measuring the health of nature and biodiversity; green as urban displays and communication interfaces to people for communicating relevant messages; sensors for co-monitoring campaigns, as part of citizen-science activities around urban greening.

2. Technology for Green: Outside and beyond NBS per se, technologies can be applied to enhance the impact of NBS in cities; ICT can be used to engage citizens in co-producing and taking care of green (co-maintenance, co-monitoring), thus generating stronger sense of belonging and social bonds within communities, with emphasis on the inclusion of marginalised and vulnerable groups; moreover, mapping technologies such as remote sensing, LiDAR applied to urban green, can support monitoring the overall progress towards greener cities, contributing to assessing the global targets of the 2030 Agenda at the local scale (e.g. localizing SDGs in cities) and reporting on ESG criteria.

**This special issue
aims to collect
best practices on
how technologies,
in different ways,
can enhance the
performance and
impact of NBS.**

Starting from the ongoing applications of two European Projects, CLEVER Cities and VARCITIES, we look for papers presenting scientific methods and innovative products and services enhancing the potential of NBS in the urban context.

Connections between the theme of the proposal and the two Horizon 2020 projects:

Currently **CLEVER Cities project** is developing the co-design and co-monitoring phases of the interventions in all Front Runner cities. Possible contributions from this side would look at the use of different technologies in green strategies such as: use of digital surveying in measuring public participation and virtual reality acceptance for the interventions. In one of Milan ULL for instance, a green noise barrier is built up around a train station that will eventually increase environmental and acoustic comfort for the residents around this area. The usage of citizen-science around NBS themes is hence to be looked more in-depth regarding increase of health, wellbeing, and general public spaces interventions.

The H2020 project **VARCITIES** is aiming to implement visionary solutions bridging NBS and digital technologies into 8 European cities. The redesign of open public spaces and green areas will be done through co-design and co-creation processes by involving local stakeholders and experts. Every demo case is going to develop a dedicated monitoring system, to collect KPI addressing a wide range of parameters, from microclimate conditions to socio-economic changes or psychological wellbeing of users. All data from demos, combine with spatial info are going to build digital twins, and the so-called Health and Wellbeing City Platform, to share experiences and insights with other cities. The use of AR/VR and gamification is also foreseen to engage people in societal change towards sustainable behaviours and acceptance of such Visionary solutions, by leveraging the concept of multiple benefits.



**POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863**

DIPARTIMENTO DI ARCHITETTURA
E STUDI URBANI
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE
AND URBAN STUDIES



**CLEVER
Cities**

**eurac
research**



Potential topics:

Tackling what remains to be done: environmental sustainability in cities and regions. Hence, potential topics would look more into environmental sustainability, local governance and possible advancements in citizen-science using technology in urban greening.

The focus of this special issue is urban technology used in the field of nature-based solutions implementation in cities. It expects to attract an international audience of professional and practitioners that use NBS in the greening strategies in their cities. Moreover, the academics and students can deepen their knowledge around the same topics using the augmented reality techniques for instance towards improving the academia participation in stakeholders' engagement from a methodological perspective.



[Find out more and submit a paper](#)

NetworkNature Annual Event:

Upscaling nature-based solutions
in policy and practice



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The NetworkNature Team
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NetworkNature invites the nature-based solutions community and other interested stakeholders from all target groups, including policy makers, scientific experts, civil society as well as investors and financing institutions, infrastructure planners and builders, landowners and natural resource managers to share and learn about the ways through which nature-based solutions can be upscaled, through policy and practice, how different sectors can contribute, and the role of standards.



The event will focus on the Network Nature semester theme “**Nature-based solutions and Standards**”, to ensure the quality, effectiveness and scale of implementation that helps deliver the European Green Deal and the challenges related to biodiversity, climate change and socio-economic development. Further, the event will take stock of the outcomes and learnings of the H2020 projects on NBS for water and climate resilience.

Exchange of knowledge, capacity building and dialogue across stakeholders and sectors is key to developing joint action for upscaling NBS. The NetworkNature Annual Event will provide the opportunity to learn more about the state-of-the art developments in NBS evidence, practice and policy.



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Online decision-making guidance tool for co-creation of nature-based solutions

Knud Erik Hilding-Hamann,
Teknologisk Institut

Isabel Ferreira, CES

Sean Bradley, Groundwork

Under the umbrella of Task Force 6 (TF6) for co-creation and co-governance of nature-based solutions, an online decision-making guidance tool for co-creation of NBS is being developed. The tool is being designed for practitioners, policy makers and other interested groups including those with some, little or no co-creation of NBS experience. The TF6 has participants with expertise in co-creation and co-governance of NBS from several of the European NBS research projects.

The TF6 work group is working with Oppla to digitalise a decision tree allowing practitioners and policy makers to consider their next actions in relation to the initiation of NBS co-creation with stakeholders and citizens. The aim is to have a workable online guide by the end of 2022.

The online decision tree tool will be made up of the following steps:

- Assessing context and determining approach
- Involving stakeholders
- Conducting diagnostics/ co-diagnostics
- Visioning the co-creation approach
- Raising awareness
- Guiding co-governance possibilities
- Determining project goals and objectives
- Co-implementing options
- Co-celebrating
- Communicating
- Co-monitoring
- Co-evaluating



Pathways and guidance will be adapted depending on the profile of the user. There will be guidance for a user with little or no experience and there will be detailed information, case studies and tools for the more experienced co-creation practitioners/ decision makers.

The tool will not offer answers but ask users to consider different options and provide links to sources of more detailed information. It will be a tool that supports reflection and consideration ahead of or during a co-creation project implementation, where a practitioner or decision maker, tasked with the co-creation of NBS, is considering the best ways forward.



This online tool will gather the knowledge and experience of relevant European Commission funded NBS research projects. It will offer online guidance and advice to target groups depending on their level of experience, organization and starting point. As such, it is hoped that the tool will be widely used by the evolving communities of practices in nature-based solutions and will be further updated with case studies and new knowledge as research projects deliver new insights, methods, and tools.

Ultimately, the purpose of this tool is to spread the uptake of co-creation and co-governance processes as methods of developing more sustainable solutions in cities, rural areas, and marine environments where citizens and stakeholders embrace joint ownership and take joint responsibility for the successful co-development, co-implementation, co-monitoring and evaluation of nature-based solutions. As such it will support the endeavours needed to improve biodiversity, address climate change, reduce pollution and enhance urban green plans.



Network Nature

 networknature.eu

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 [NetworkNature](https://www.youtube.com/NetworkNature)

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