

ACTION CHECK- LIST

Pathway 1: Speak the Language of Communities



1	When preparing NbS communications and engagement materials
☐	Have you replaced NbS jargon with locally meaningful language? ▸ Test your materials with 3 community members who are not NbS professionals. ▸ Use terms people already use: gardens, trees, clean water, green spaces, fresh air.
☐	Have you framed NbS around immediate community priorities (health, safety, jobs, food)? ▸ Connect every NbS benefit to a daily-life concern the audience already cares about. ▸ Avoid leading with biodiversity metrics—lead with human well-being.
☐	Have you involved local storytellers, artists, or cultural leaders in co-developing the narrative? ▸ Partner with community reporters, poets, visual artists, or cultural associations. ▸ Use Photovoice or cultural mapping to let citizens define the story themselves.
☐	Is your communication available in all relevant local languages? ▸ Go beyond translation—adapt concepts to cultural context. ▸ Use visual and oral formats (video, audio, illustration) alongside text.

2.	When engaging with diverse communities
☐	Have you identified existing nature-based practices already happening in the community? ▸ Map what people already do: planting, cleaning rivers, seed-saving, urban gardening. ▸ Start from recognition, not from a knowledge deficit.
☐	Are you using “trigger events” (climate shocks, floods, heatwaves) as windows of opportunity? ▸ Prepare rapid-response communication kits that connect crises to NbS.
☐	Have you ensured that narratives reflect the voices and priorities of vulnerable groups? ▸ Centre spatial justice, food sovereignty, and dignity—not abstract ecology. ▸ Use arts-based practices (poetry, body mapping) for groups facing language barriers.

3.	When reflecting on your communication efforts
☐	Did your communication reach beyond the “usual suspects”? ▸ Track who engaged and who did not. Adjust channels and language accordingly.
☐	Did community members feel the narrative represented their reality? ▸ Gather feedback through informal conversations, not just surveys.

ACTION CHECK-LIST

Pathway 2: Learn Together, Build Together



1	When designing co-learning spaces
☐	Have you created a familiar, welcoming space for co-learning (e.g., a community hub, neighbourhood centre, or Info Centre)? ▸ Ensure the space is physically accessible, welcoming, and non-institutional. ▸ Consider pop-up or temporary formats to lower commitment barriers.
☐	Does your learning programme include hands-on, outdoor, and sensory experiences? ▸ Use transect walks, sensory mapping, and foraging to engage all senses. ▸ At least 50% of learning should happen outside the classroom or meeting room.
☐	Have you included citizen science components (BioBlitzes, environmental monitoring)? ▸ Make participants data collectors and environmental monitors—not just recipients. ▸ Share results back with participants and show how their data influenced decisions.

2.	When engaging participants
☐	Is participation designed with “zero prerequisites” (no prior technical knowledge needed)? ▸ Use game-based tools (e.g., Minecraft) to lower barriers for youth. ▸ Provide visual starters rather than blank slates.
☐	Are participants compensated for their time and expertise? ▸ Budget for stipends, food, transport, and childcare—especially for vulnerable groups.
☐	Have you built in mentorship or peer-to-peer learning structures? ▸ Pair experienced practitioners with emerging community leaders. ▸ Peer influence is more powerful than expert-led instruction.

3.	When reflecting on learning outcomes
☐	Did participants gain skills, confidence, or connections they can use beyond this programme? ▸ Track social cohesion and capacity-building outcomes, not just attendance.
☐	Has the learning process led to any self-organised or community-initiated follow-up actions? ▸ The strongest indicator of success is when communities continue without you.

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Pathway 3: Meeting People Where They Are



1	When planning engagement activities
☐	Are you going to the community rather than expecting them to come to you? ▶ Use “public spotting”: set up at markets, schools, sports clubs, transit hubs. ▶ Consider mobile units (dialogue buses) or pop-up stands.
☐	Have you budgeted for inclusion support? ▶ Allocate funds for: translation services, childcare, transport vouchers, food, stipends. ▶ These are not extras—they are prerequisites for inclusive participation.
☐	Are you working through trusted local actors (mediators, social workers, community leaders)? ▶ Do not assume institutional trust. Partner with people the community already knows. ▶ Identify who already holds community trust before designing the engagement.

2.	When designing the participation format
☐	Is the format accessible to people with no prior technical knowledge? ▶ Avoid written surveys or technical workshops as the only format. ▶ Use visual, creative, and embodied methods: mapping, walking, drawing, performing.
☐	Have you considered creative or non-verbal methods for marginalised communities? ▶ Memory work, body mapping, poetry, and storytelling bypass language barriers. ▶ Digital and gaming tools (e.g., Minecraft for participatory urban design) can engage youth. ▶ Low-barrier digital channels (e.g., WhatsApp groups, voice notes) can sustain dialogue with remote or time-poor participants.
☐	Is the engagement designed around the community’s schedule, not yours? ▶ Ask the target group what times and locations work for them—do not assume. ▶ Evenings, weekends, or during school pickups may work better than office hours.
☐	Is the format accessible across mobility, sensory, language, and timing needs? ▶ Check venues for step-free access, hearing loops, and quiet spaces. ▶ Provide materials in multiple languages and offer interpretation when needed. ▶ Vary the times of day so people with different work and care schedules can join.

3.	When reflecting on who participated
☐	Which groups were you expecting to participate? Which actually did? Which did not? ▶ Document gaps and adjust your methodology for the next round. ▶ Absence is data—investigate why certain groups did not show up.
☐	Did participants feel safe, heard, and respected? ▶ Gather this through informal feedback, not just formal evaluations.

ACTION CHECK-LIST

Pathway 4: Share Power, Share Responsibility



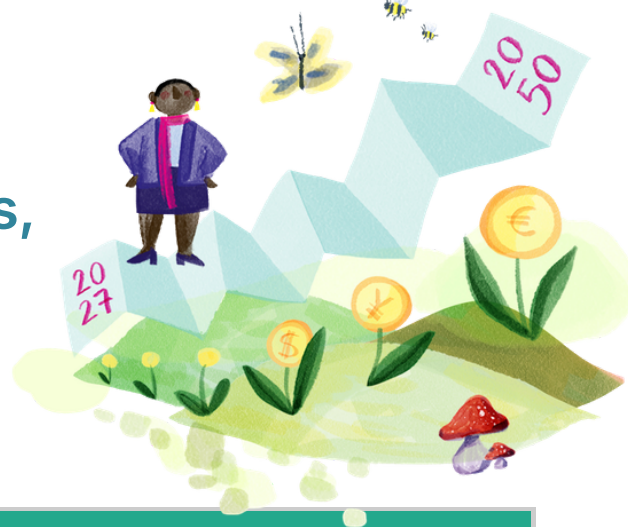
1	When designing governance structures for NbS
☐	Have you mapped existing formal and informal stewardship networks in the community? ▸ Use STEW-MAP or similar tools to make invisible civic care visible. ▸ Acknowledge that communities are often already acting as stewards.
☐	Have you established cross-departmental working groups for NbS? ▸ NbS cross administrative boundaries (water, parks, health)—governance must too. ▸ Create ad-hoc, multidisciplinary teams that cut across municipal silos.
☐	Have you codified participation into local law or policy frameworks? ▸ Ensure co-governance mechanisms survive election cycles and political changes. ▸ Include mandatory co-creation clauses in public works tenders.

2.	When sharing power with communities
☐	Are citizens participants in decision-making, or only have consultative roles? ▸ Establish formal advisory boards or municipal committees with binding influence. ▸ If participation is only consultative, be transparent about that limitation.
☐	Have you created mechanisms for non-human representation in decision-making? ▸ Consider the Zoöp model: appoint a “Speaker for the Living” to represent ecosystems.
☐	Are you actively supporting “champions” within your organisation? ▸ Identify individuals who drive innovative engagement and prevent their burnout. ▸ Provide institutional backing for risk-taking and experimentation.

3.	When reflecting on governance equity
☐	Are marginalised communities influencing decisions, or only participating? ▸ Influence means changing outcomes, not just being present. ▸ Monitor for green gentrification and displacement risks.
☐	Is youth involvement institutionalised beyond short-term workshops? ▸ Create pathways for youth to become long-term governance protagonists.

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Pathway 5: Sustain the Stewards, Not Just the Structures



1	When designing funding mechanisms for citizen-led NbS
☐	Have you allocated a portion of the municipal budget to participatory budgeting for greening? ▸ Even small allocations (€5,000–€50,000) can activate significant community action. ▸ Let citizens propose and vote on how funds are spent.
☐	Have you created accessible micro-grant schemes? ▸ Keep application processes simple: 1–2 pages, no jargon, in local languages. ▸ Target €250–€2,000 grants to empower immediate, localised action. ▸ Channel funds through trusted intermediaries (CSOs, community groups).
☐	Are you funding maintenance (OPEX), not just construction (CAPEX)? ▸ The biggest funding gap is long-term care, not initial installation. ▸ Bundle design, construction, and maintenance into single tenders.
2.	When compensating and supporting participation
☐	Are you compensating participants for their time and costs? ▸ Budget for stipends, transport, food, and childcare at every co-creation event. ▸ Participation without compensation is a privilege only the wealthy can afford.
☐	Are you providing access to public land for community greening? ▸ Free, long-term legal access to “unused” land is a massive financial enabler. ▸ Barcelona’s Pla Buits scheme is a strong model.
☐	Have you explored alternative funding streams beyond public budgets? ▸ Consider crowdfunding, philanthropic donations, locals sponsorships, and corporate partnerships. ▸ Help communities build business cases for finance departments.
3.	When reflecting on funding equity
☐	Can migrant and informal communities access your funding without formal legal status? ▸ Channel funds through community networks that do not require legal documentation.
☐	Does funding simultaneously support livelihoods (especially in Global South contexts)? ▸ Link NbS funding to food sovereignty, urban farming, or paid maintenance roles.

ACTION CHECK-LIST

Pathway 6: Make Nature Work as a Livelihood



1	When developing nature-based enterprise ecosystems
☐	Have you mapped local nature-based enterprises (NBEs) in your area? ▸ Use chambers of commerce, incubators, universities to identify who works with nature. ▸ Include landscape architects, water managers, agroecologists, eco-tourism operators.
☐	Have you reformed procurement rules to level the playing field for green suppliers? ▸ Traditional procurement favour slowest-cost “grey” solutions over NBEs. ▸ Add environmental and social criteria to tender evaluation, not just cost.
☐	Are you providing financial incentives for stewardship (subsidies, tax reductions)? ▸ Shift from punitive measures to “carrots”: direct payments for ecosystem services. ▸ Treat green space maintenance as a public good worth investing in.
2.	When supporting community-led enterprises
☐	Are you compensating participants for their time and costs? ▸ Budget for stipends, transport, food, and child care at every co-creation event. ▸ Participation without compensation is a privilege only the wealthy can afford.
☐	Are you providing access to public land for community greening? ▸ Free, long-term legal access to “unused” land is a massive financial enabler. ▸ Barcelona’s Pla Buits scheme is a strong model.
☐	Have you explored alternative funding streams beyond public budgets? ▸ Consider crowdfunding, philanthropic donations, local sponsorships, and corporate partnerships. ▸ Help communities build business cases for finance departments.
3.	When reflecting on enterprise equity
☐	Are green jobs accessible to youth, low-income communities, and marginalised groups? ▸ Create green job training and accelerator programmes targeting underserved communities.
☐	Does your enterprise model recognise ancestral and indigenous knowledge? ▸ In many contexts, “working with nature” is an ancestral survival practice, not imported technology. ▸ Honour and compensate traditional knowledge rather than extracting it.