



NetworkNature Annual Event 2025

Tuesday, 16th of September 2025
in Bruxelles Environnement building
[Tour & Taxis Avenue du port 86C / 3000](#)
Havenlaan 86C/3000, 1000 Brussel

Choose nature.



Unlocking pathways to a resilient economy for people and the planet.

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Unlocking pathways
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“Transformative change is urgent because there is a closing window of opportunity to avoid further biodiversity loss and prevent triggering the potentially irreversible decline and projected collapse of key ecosystem functions. Delaying action to achieve global sustainability is costly compared with the benefits of taking action now”

This statement opens the summary for policymakers of the **IPBES Assessment report on Transformative Change**, warning us about the risks of failing to address biodiversity loss with the urgency the situation demands.

At the same time, current EU political priorities aim to foster competitiveness to ensure that European businesses can thrive in the global marketplace. This, coupled with a fast-changing geopolitical context, signals a shift in focus — from ambitious environmental targets to a stronger emphasis on economic growth.

This seemingly divergent context invites us to reflect on the opportunities and challenges of addressing these questions together. Organised by NetworkNature in collaboration with Brussels Environment, this year’s NetworkNature Annual Event 2025 “**Choose Nature**” will explore different means to align biodiversity and economy in times of urgency, building on the concept of Nature-based Solutions.

We will hear from a broad range of stakeholders, from the public and private sectors, examine diverse ideas, exchange knowledge, explore

initiatives and share case studies that link nature with climate, economy, innovation, finance and business and wellbeing. Through pitches and discussions, we will delve into pathways to build a resilient economy that benefits both people and nature. The event will also encourage stakeholders to engage with and adopt these approaches.

The event will be structured around four thematic sessions:

- **Choose to Work with and for nature** – This session will explore how supporting and enhancing nature can help build a more resilient economy. Additionally, it will discuss how simplification can enhance environmental ambition.
- **Choose to Trust nature and people** – This session will delve into the concept of dependency, highlighting nature's ability to provide both essential ecosystem services, and solutions to complex problems. It will present Nature-based Solutions as innovative approaches — grounded in diverse knowledges and shaped with local communities — to current challenges.
- **Choose to Invest in nature** – Focusing on innovative finance mechanisms, this session will explore and discuss the many reasons that public and private organisations should invest in nature, and how to sustainably scale up financial flows that support a nature positive economy.
- **Choose to Partner with nature** – In the closing session, a range of businesses working with nature will share key insights from their business models, highlighting opportunities, barriers, needs and strategies for nature-positive business practices.

In parallel to the main event, the exhibition **Why Choose Nature? / Why do we care?** will invite you and your organisation to explore the diverse (and divergent) reasons why working with nature is essential and why you should care about it.

Curated through an open call, this exhibition will compile a variety of resources, experiences and types of knowledges, all highlighting how nature-based approaches can encourage and build on a wide range of perspectives in relation to nature. This concept is inspired by the IPBES Values Assessment report on integrating diverse values of nature into decision-making and aims to contribute to a meaningful exchange during the event. **This open call has been developed by NetworkNature in collaboration with the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences SLU (Florence Damiens) and count on the support of Brussels Environment.** Know more about it and apply [here](#).

Finally, during the event, NetworkNature will officially launch the **NbS Business Forum** and offer a space to showcase diverse nature-based business models. The NbS Business Forum aims to bring together corporates, SMEs, nature-based enterprises, and financial actors in a collaborative space to accelerate the market uptake and scaling of Nature-based Solutions. This space will be curated via **Businesses that choose nature**. Open Call. Know more about it and apply [here](#).

Do not to forget to register soon! [Registrations available here](#).

Agenda

Introduction

09h15	Welcome
09h25	keynote speech
09h25	Introduction
09h30	to the event

Choose to Work for and with nature

Nature as the foundation for resilience and wellbeing

Nature plays a vital and multifaceted role in supporting human health, climate stability, water and food security, and protection against natural disasters. These interconnected benefits form the backbone of a thriving, resilient economy and society. However, economic strategies often overlook our dependencies on biodiversity and undervalue its contributions, viewing nature primarily as a source of raw materials. By shifting toward a more holistic understanding of nature as a key partner in long-term resilience and wellbeing, we can avoid costly disruptions, safeguard ecosystem functions, and unlock sustainable opportunities for both industries and communities.

Nature-based solutions offer long-lasting, cost-saving and adaptive solutions to existing challenges by recognising the diverse values of nature. Leveraging the power of nature can ensure a resilient economy that benefits both people and nature.

09h30 6 Short presentations
10h20 Choose to Work with and for nature

10h20 Short panel + Q&A
10h45 Beyond simplification

25 min Short break

Choose to Trust nature and people

Recognising social and economic dependencies on nature.

As Europe sets out a path to long-term prosperity through high-tech innovation, there's a growing understanding that sustainable success depends on aligning technological progress with ecological and social wellbeing. Embracing an integrated approach —one that values both nature and people— can lead to more resilient and inclusive outcomes. Nature-based solutions (NbS) offer a powerful, innovative response to today's complex challenges.

By blending high- and low-tech innovation with Indigenous and local knowledge, as well as insights from ecological and social sciences, **NbS create holistic, adaptable solutions that strengthen biodiversity, enhance water and food security, improve human health, and promote climate and social equity. This session aims to trigger a wider recognition of the capacity of people and nature together to tackle current challenges.**

11h10 6 Short presentations
12h00 Choose to trust nature and people

12h00 Short panel + Q&A
12h25 Recognising dependencies

Choose to Invest in nature

Financing change through existing and new opportunities

NbS play an essential role in tackling multiple challenges, including climate change, pollution and the vital need to transition to a nature positive economy. However, there remains a huge gap between the funding currently available for NbS and the amount that is required to meet EU and global goals. Investing in nature provides a range of opportunities to increase resilience of operations, supply chains and landscapes while delivering multiple benefits. Done well, and with robust safeguards, investing in nature can reduce risks, contribute to a fairer society and help respond to regulatory requirements. By fully integrating the value of these benefits in decision making, their full investment potential becomes clear. The challenge is to develop 'bankable' NbS, and to ensure the policy, regulation and insurance measures are in place to scale implementation up and out.

This session explores the reasons to make new investments in nature, to shift existing investments away from activities that harm nature and towards NbS, why safeguards are so important to make sure that social and environmental rights are advanced and protected and that investments result in multiple benefits.

12h25	Short presentations
13h15	Choose to invest in nature

13h15	Short panel + Q&A
13h40	Exploring new opportunities

1h 20min Lunch break

Choose to Partner with nature

Creating new businesses with and for nature

Achieving meaningful and lasting transformative change requires placing nature at the heart of all business models and decision-making processes, both in those who are actively managing nature and in those who can transform their supply chains. There is an urgent need to both transform existing industries and companies and create and scale-up SMEs working in harmony with biodiversity. By doing so we can promote the creation of skilled and high-quality jobs, while ensuring social equity and sustainability.

Nature-based solutions have a great potential to drive this change. By prioritising ecological restoration, conservation, protection and sustainable management of terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, these solutions foster cross sector and interdisciplinary collaboration. They can also mobilise diverse financing streams, ranging from public investment to private capital – accelerating innovation and impactful action for both people and planet.

15h00	Short presentations
15h50	Choose to partner with nature
15h50	Short panel + Q&A
16h15	Businesses for nature and people

Final words

16h15	Conclusions by the moderator
16h25	
16h25	Final words
16h30	

Launch of the NbS Business Forum

16h30	Coffee and Launch of the NbS Business Forum
17h15	

During this final break, we will host informal and interactive showcase of SMEs, Nature-based Enterprises, start-ups, and organisations working on or with the business side of Nature-based Solutions.

The NbS Business Forum envisions building a thriving business ecosystem where NbS is a mainstream strategic and operational approach, empowering businesses to deliver for people and nature.

Outdoor drinks



NetworkNature is an expanding ‘network of networks’ working together to raise awareness, share knowledge and build capacity about nature-based solutions to accelerate their uptake in business, science, policy and practice along the policy priorities of the European Green Deal. It will maintain and add to a diverse and science-based repository of evidence on NbS, strengthen partnerships and foster new relationships around a clear, strategic framework for action. This work is underpinned by an up-to-date EU Research & Innovation NBS Roadmap and NetworkNature’s six priority themes: Biodiversity enhancement and ecosystem restoration; Sustainable food systems; Zero Pollution; Climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience; Sustainable finance, investment and just transition; Sustainable urban and regional transformation



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