

# Nature-based Solutions Task Forces

Welcome Package



## What is NetworkNature?

NetworkNature, now in its second phase NetworkNaturePLUS, is a Horizon Europe project that works as a resource to **accelerate upscaling of Nature-based Solutions** implementation in science, business, policy and practice in line with the EUs' ambitions to address biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation and climate change by 2030.

NetworkNature will continue its legacy as a 'network of networks' and expand the Nature-based Solutions (NbS) multi-stakeholder platform to engage new audiences in addressing the societal challenges outlined by the EU.

The project runs from August 2023 until July 2027 and is funded by the European Commission under the Horizon Europe programme.

## Project Objectives

NetworkNature seeks to:

- Support policymaking by spurring NbS evidence integration and mobilisation.
- Broaden, guide and engage the NbS community of innovators, developers and practitioners in NbS policy, development, investment, implementation and education.
- Grow capacities and skills of public authorities, NbS investors and entrepreneurs, and society at large for NbS from subnational to EU level.

*Find out more about [NetworkNature](#).*

## What are the NbS Task Forces?

The NbS Task Forces are groups or clusters of NbS projects representatives. There is a growing portfolio of EU Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects that focus on Nature-based Solutions related to: sustainable urban development, social cohesion, public health, water and climate resilience, and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and more.

To gather and synthesize the variety of approaches and outputs of these projects, ensure the EU added-value and policy relevance of this coherent portfolio, as well

as to maximize social, ecological and innovation impact, **the projects are ‘clustered’ around six key transversal topic areas: the Nature-based Solutions Task Forces.**

NetworkNature supports the coordination of the NbS Task Forces together with the European Commission (REA and DG RTD). In addition, one of the Task Forces - Task Force 5 NbS Education - is coordinated through the NbSEduWorld project.

## What are the objectives of the NbS Task Forces?

- Create common messages for NbS, and facilitate knowledge sharing, development and synthesis to amplify project findings’ dissemination and exploitation.
- Enable meaningful synergies to share efforts and save resources around common areas of interests and work to address gaps for NbS design, creation and implementation.
- Build long-lasting collaborations and strengthen networks between diverse EU NbS projects, partners and other stakeholders across a wide range of disciplines and professions to maximize impact for mainstreaming NbS.

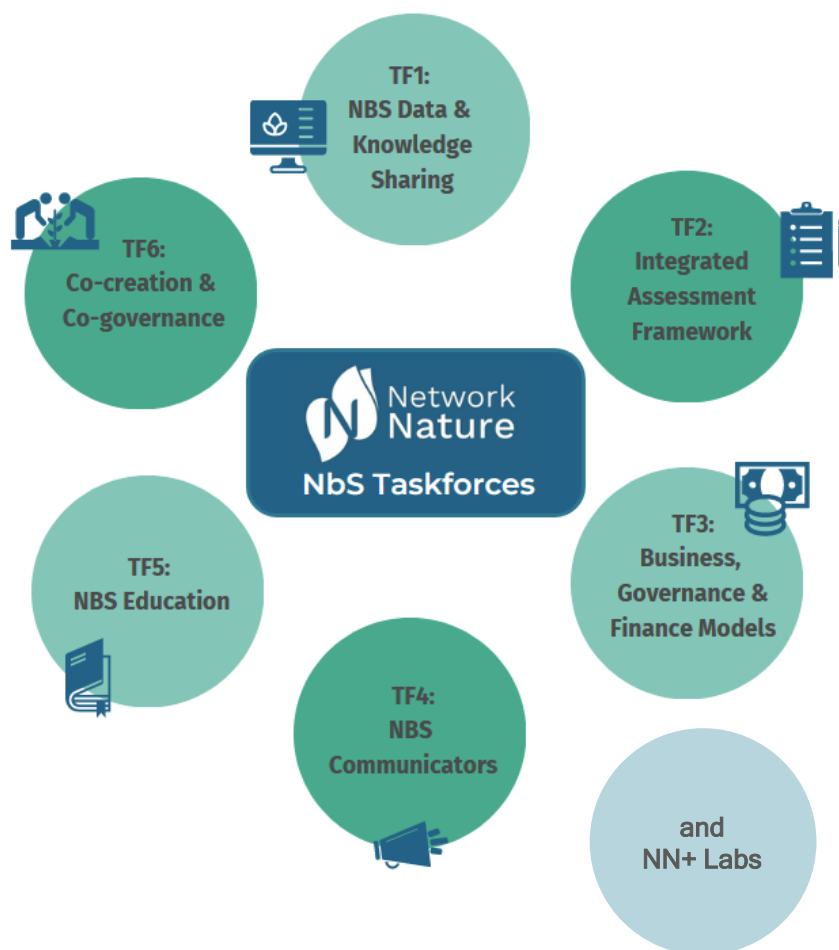


Examples of outputs produced by the NbS Task Forces include a [series of NbS-related videos](#) for the general public, a handbook on “[Evaluating the impact of NbS for planners and practitioners](#)”(above), and “[Guidelines for co-creation and co-governance of nature-based solutions](#)”.

Find out more on the [NbS Task Forces](#).

# What are the different NbS Task Forces?

There are six NbS Task Forces, five coordinated by a NetworkNature focal point and one by an NbSEduWorld focal point. In addition to that, NN+ Labs will allow cross-TF collaboration and funding of selected TFs outputs.



**Task Force 1** aims to assist projects with data-related challenges and overall improve how data on NbS and biodiversity is collected, standardised and shared.

**Task Force 2** facilitates the exchange of knowledge and expertise on NbS assessment and evaluation, to promote standardized approaches measuring the multiple benefits of NbS.

**Task Force 3** focuses on mobilising finance and investments, creating business models and supporting enterprises and entrepreneurs.

**Task Force 4** through strategic communication, resource sharing, and advocacy efforts, aims to elevate awareness and exchange valuable insights around NbS.

**Task Force 5** seeks to transform education into a powerful force for positive environmental action, ensuring a more sustainable and harmonious future.

**Task Force 6** focuses on co-creation and co-governance for nature-based solutions.

**NN+ Labs** will allow cross-Task Forces collaboration and the funding of selected TFs outputs. .

# Who can join the Task Forces?

## Membership

Membership to the Task Forces is **restricted to partners of EU Horizon NbS projects (Cluster 6)** - for which this type of involvement is required and specified in their calls text - and to **selected projects directly funded by the EU Missions**. Participation in the Task Forces is open to any of these projects' representatives, beyond the project coordinators, and each project may contribute to different Task Forces.

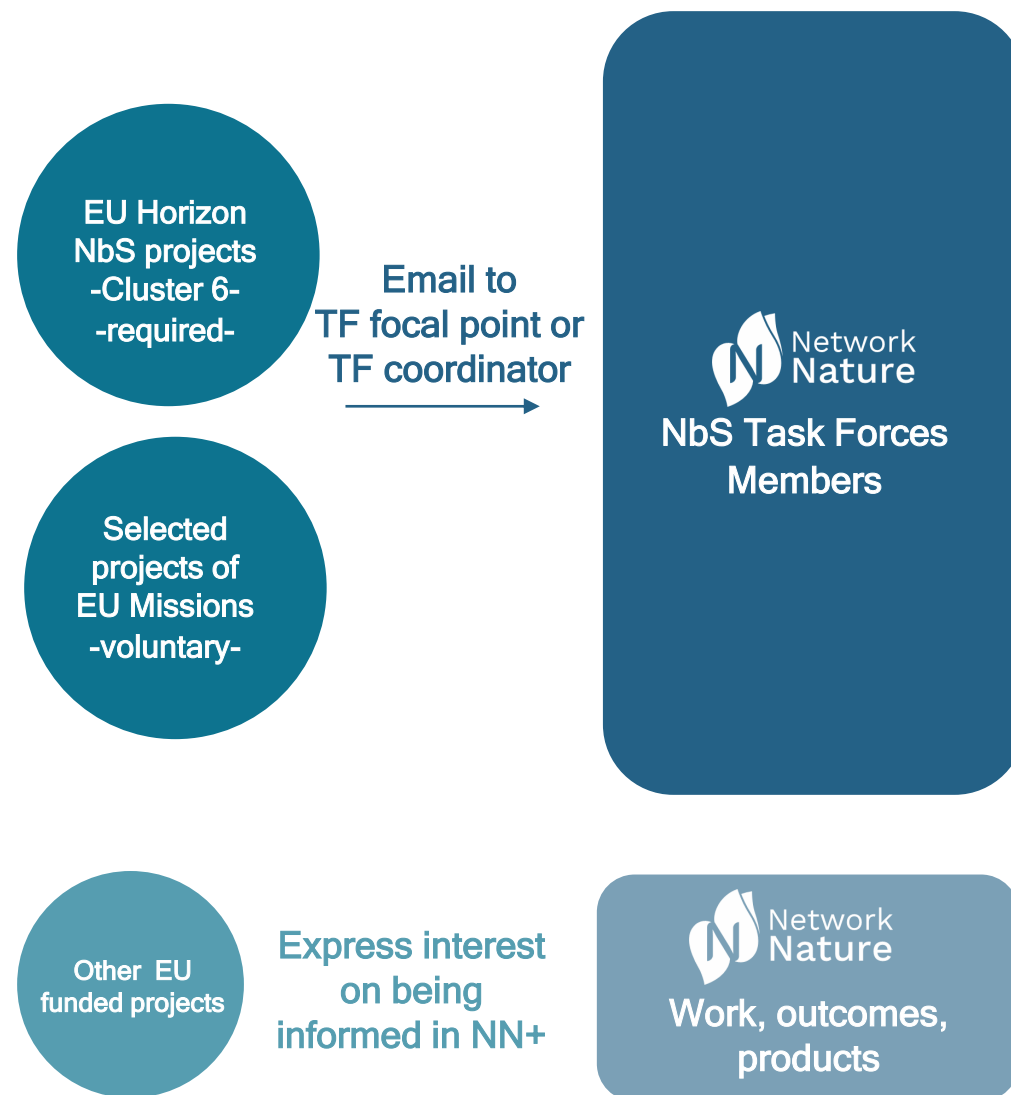
Know more about the EU Horizon NbS projects [here](#).

In order to join the Task Forces, interested partners can send a request to the NetworkNature focal point of the selected Task Force(s) (see contacts provided below) and/or to the coordinator of the Task Forces:

**Susanna Gionfra**  
[susanna.gionfra@iucn.org](mailto:susanna.gionfra@iucn.org).

## Interested

Other EU-funded projects involved or interested in NbS who wish to be informed on the work and outcomes of the Task Forces may express such interest by signing up to NetworkNature.



## Task Force 1: Data and Knowledge Sharing

Task Force 1 is a community for people in the field of data and knowledge sharing. Its purpose is to assist projects with data-related challenges and overall improve how data on NbS and biodiversity is collected, standardised and shared.

### Objectives

- Facilitate the development of data standards for priority NbS indicators;
- Assist the EU Repository of NbS (Oppla) by supporting ongoing development of a shared case study template and API;
- Help to increase the skills and capacity of NbS projects in relation to data and knowledge sharing;
- Collaborate with the BioAgora project in helping to meet EU policy needs for data on NbS and biodiversity.

### Focal point

Paul Mahony, OPPLA (paul@oppla.eu).

## Task Force 2: Integrated Assessment Framework

Task Force 2 brings together a diverse group of stakeholders from Nature-based Solutions (NbS) projects funded under Horizon 2020. TF2 facilitates the exchange of knowledge and expertise on NbS assessment and evaluation, to promote standardized approaches measuring the multiple benefits of NbS.

### Objectives

Task Force 2 will strengthen and centralize the evidence base for NbS: it aims to compile and synthesize evidence on the effectiveness of NbS (in achieving environmental, social and economic challenges). This evidence, just like the previous [Handbook for Practitioners](#) will help to inform decision-making and policy-making at local, regional, and national levels.

### Focal point

Kenny Meganck, IEEP (kmeganck@ieep.eu).



# Task Force 3: Business, Governance and Finance Models

Task Force 3 focuses on mobilising finance and investments, creating business models and supporting enterprises and entrepreneurs to maximise the impact and spread of NbS and to promote a nature-positive economy

## Objectives

### 1. Integrated policy and regulation change to stimulate investment in NbS:

- Integrated policy and regulation change to stimulate and increase investment in NbS, including leveraging public investments, encouraging private sector involvement and encourage public-private partnerships.
- Identifying current gaps within investment policies and practices, such as the lack of financial incentives for green/NbS investments
- Integrating standards and taskforce insights to align NbS initiatives with global financial and environmental reporting standards.

### 2. Research, Technology and Implementation Advancement:

- Increased investment and support for NbS research, including piloting and broader technology uptake, especially for impact measurement.
- Increased buy-in and piloting of NbS-related actions to achieve socio-economic, health, and wellbeing impacts.

### 3. Economic and Entrepreneurial Development:

- Fostering green business, entrepreneurial and investment opportunities and employment through NbS.
- Promoting nature-based entrepreneurship and advancing a nature-positive economy within the European Union.
- Developing compelling business cases to attract further funding, leveraging insights from TNFD (Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures) and other relevant frameworks.

### 4. Market Integration and Finance Mobilisation:

- Mobilising finance from various sources for NbS projects.
- Integrating NbS into market mechanisms and economic planning at various scales.

### Focal point

Victoria Blessing, Steinbeis  
([victoria.blessing@steinbeis-europa.de](mailto:victoria.blessing@steinbeis-europa.de)).



# Task Force 4: NbS Communicators

## Description

The TF4 NbS Communicators is a collaborative community of project representatives dedicated to using knowledge sharing to bridge research and implementation gaps. Through strategic communication, resource sharing, and advocacy efforts, the aim is to elevate awareness, exchange valuable insights, ultimately driving the integration of NbS into NbS policies and practices for sustainable and just impact.

## Objectives

- **Build Awareness and Communication:** Collaborate for joint communication, exchange cutting edge NbS resources, and pool assets to support mainstreaming NbS in political recommendations. Engage projects, create targeted initiatives and products, and leverage media for impact. Team up to illustrate impact and relevance of NbS to the public.
- **Exchange Knowledge and Resources:** Foster collaboration for sharing knowledge/skills, contacts, and successful strategies among projects. Streamline approaches for impact measurement and communication processes.
- **Support NbS Integration and Advocacy:** Facilitate NbS inclusion in tenders, showcase successes, and advocate for policy integration.

## Focal point

Kassia Rudd, ICLEI ([kassia.rudd@iclei.org](mailto:kassia.rudd@iclei.org)).





## Task Force 5: NbS Education

The Task Force for NbS Education will cultivate an environmentally conscious and empowered community of educators to develop approaches and material for this developing area. By fostering collaboration, providing resources, and advocating for policy change, the taskforce seeks to transform education into a powerful force for positive environmental action, ensuring a more sustainable and harmonious future.



### Objectives

Task Force 5 aims to:

- **Community Engagement and Outreach:** Organise outreach programs, workshops, and events to involve members and the wider community in hands-on experiences that showcase the positive impact of nature-based solutions. This will involve the establishment of partnerships with colleges, schools, community organizations, and environmental agencies to promote awareness and understanding of the benefits of nature-based solutions.
- **Integration of Nature-Based Solutions in Education:** Develop comprehensive educational frameworks that seamlessly integrate nature-based solutions into existing curricula across various academic disciplines. Promote interdisciplinary learning experiences that highlight the interconnectedness of ecosystems and emphasise the role of nature in addressing global challenges.
- **Creation of Engaging Learning Resources:** Produce innovative and interactive educational materials, including lesson plans, multimedia content, and hands-on activities, to engage students in the exploration of nature-based solutions.

### Focal point

Conor Dowling, Trinity Dublin College ([conor.dowling@tdc.ie](mailto:conor.dowling@tdc.ie))

## Task Force 6: Co-Creation and Co-Governance

Task Force 6 focuses on co-creation and co-governance for nature-based solutions, which involves engaging citizens and stakeholders in assessing problems and issues, designing nature-based solutions, implementing them in a just and inclusive manner, as well as ensuring long-term maintenance, utilization and monitoring of their services. The Taskforce incorporates all interested NbS projects, drawing on their experiences while exploring linkages with relevant EU initiatives.

### Objectives

TF6 aims to address gaps and barriers in nature-based solutions governance and promote co-creation for inclusive nature-based solutions.

The objectives of the Taskforce are to:

- Identify and promote ways to integrate principles of equality, inclusiveness and justice in NbS
- Explore and analyse the socio-political conditions to develop NbS and the existing planning and institutional barriers
- Explore, formalise and stage bottom-up initiatives for NbS (i.e. meta-governance)
- Explore co-governance gaps in the full lifecycle of NbS, from strategic decisions to long-term management
- Explore co-creation approaches and innovations with systemic, sociotechnical perspectives, e.g. through NbS Living Labs, participatory evaluation and place keeping



### Focal point

Susanna Gionfra, IUCN ([susanna.gionfra@iucn.org](mailto:susanna.gionfra@iucn.org)).

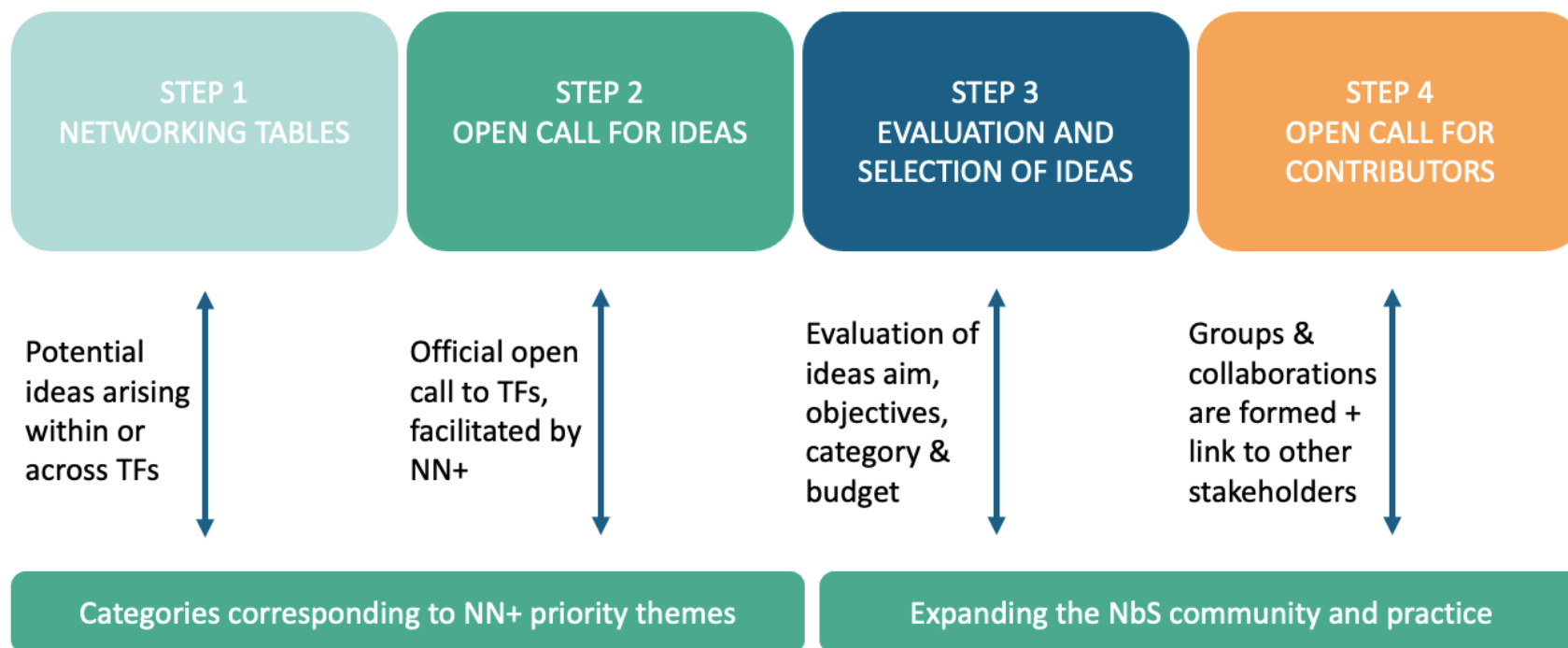
# NetworkNature Labs

NetworkNature Labs are four-step calls to fund selected ideas, allowing for:

- self-organization within TFs members, backed by genuine dedication, guaranteeing meaningful and impactful outputs.
- funding of tangible and identified NN+ needs
- innovative synergies and pioneering outputs.

NN Labs are different from the TFs workstreams. **NN Labs are voluntary and lead to funded activities**, while TFs workstreams are of organisational nature and are not linked to funding. However, workstreams could also lead to proposals for ideas that could be processed through the NN Labs.

**NN Labs function with an Operational Fund of EUR 112 K**



## How do the Task Forces work?

Every Task Force - based on agreement among its members - develops its own way of working, attributing roles, setting frequency and means of meetings, within the framework of contributing to the objectives of the R&I agenda on Nature-based Solutions.

One **NetworkNature focal point** is allocated to each of the task forces, with the exception of TF5 whose focal point is under the NbSEduWorld project. These focal points will organise and attend the task force meetings, organise note-taking as well as dissemination of minutes, maintain and update the mailing list of each of the TFs on a regular basis, and oversee the activities of the task force. These focal points will guide the development of bi-annual workplans, to be co-created with the members to help steer the focus of the TF's work. The workplans will be made public on the NetworkNature Task Forces space and will help in the identification of synergies with other task forces.

In addition to the coordinating role of NetworkNature focal points, "leaders" can be identified to lead the TF activities from a content point of view.

Content-based activities and decisions will be agreed and organised among the members of the Task Forces.

"Subgroups" or **workstreams** can be created flexibly within a Task Force for more technical discussions and/or specific activities, and dissolved if no longer needed. In this case, one of the project partners will oversee steering sub-working groups as necessary, organizing and facilitating the necessary exchanges in a time- and resource-efficient manner as well as the development of common activities and outputs.

NetworkNature will organise two **Task Forces Cluster Meetings** per year, one of them in-person linked to the annual NetworkNature event and one online. These events will allow Task Forces to exchange between them, share their results, explore opportunities for synergies and collaborations.

State-of-the art resources are the basis of cooperation in the Task Forces and NetworkNature can effectively promote and disseminate (new) findings, events, and help create common objectives and messages. NetworkNature will ensure that the Task Forces are supported in creating visibility for their projects. Joint promotion of results will be explored through the actions of Task Force 4 NbS Communicators, including access to a range of key awareness raising materials provided by the European Commission DG RTD.



### Roles and Responsibility of the Task Force Members

Project representatives in all the Task Forces are expected to actively participate in all TF-related meetings, i.e. continuously share knowledge and ideas, contribute to the bi-annual workplans, and contribute to the co-creation of TF products and activities. They are invited to provide their insights on key knowledge resources and project results, present findings and tools.

Members of the Task Forces are expected to participate in all Task Forces Cluster Meetings and will be invited to all NetworkNature Annual Events; Membership to the TFs may be distinguished between "active" and "follower". While active memberships are encouraged, a "follower" approach may be used for those members whose project is represented by multiple people in the Task Forces.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Can multiple Task Forces collaborate together?

NetworkNature will provide Task Forces members with opportunities for cross-Task Forces collaboration to produce common outputs transversal to different Task Forces. Task Forces will meet together and network during the bi-annual TF Cluster meetings and through collaborative sessions. In addition, NetworkNature has made available an operational fund for Task Forces through which ideas and activities proposed by different Task Forces members can be funded (including cross-TFs activities). The allocation of the budget and selection of ideas will follow a well-established process which is shared with the members of all Task Forces.

Please note that the functioning of the operational fund is different for TF5, as the coordination falls under NbSEduWorld rather than NetworkNature.

### How to handle private property?

The intellectual property of the information and knowledge shared within TFs remains solely with the individual projects in line with their contribution to the TFs. The contributions of each member to the TF outputs should be documented to accurately reflect project contribution to the

common outcomes in order for it to be accordingly recognised. All the knowledge and documents shared by the projects and created by them must remain within the TFs unless agreed otherwise by its members. Data within the TF should be managed according to the GDPR EU policy. NetworkNature, REA and the DG RTD do not have any rights to the information shared by the projects and hence will not present any TF discussions and outputs as their own. TF's results will be externally communicated with agreement of all TF's members, and full credit to the individual projects will be given by- inter alia - branding it with the project's logo.

### How resource intensive are clustering activities?

As of Horizon Europe Cluster 6, all project calls include a specific requirement to join the NbS Task Forces and to allocate budget for it. Experience has shown that clustering may be resource intensive, and projects are therefore recommended by DG RTD/REA to ensure smart allocation of resources to the TF work, to ensure reaching the TF objectives and to maximise the synergies that can be achieved through cooperation with other Horizon projects.

**Do you have any additional question?  
Please contact Susanna Gionfra  
Susanna.gionfra@iucn.org**



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.

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- 🐦 [NetworkNatureEU](https://twitter.com/NetworkNatureEU)
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