



Network
Nature

Network Nature Report

**Nature-based solutions Task
Forces Cluster Meeting**

IUCN

16th December 2022

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Executive summary

The fourth NetworkNature Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) Task Forces Cluster Meeting brought together more than 75 participants, including representatives of research and academia (62%), international organisations (26%), business and SMEs (16%), the European Commission (European Research Executive Agency and DG Research & Innovation) (11%), and other people engaged with and/or related to NetworkNature task forces and EU funded NBS projects.

The meeting provided the opportunity for projects and other partners to interact, creating a space for networking and collaborations, which are essential objectives of NetworkNature.

The results of interactive poll questions with the audience showed the relevance that is given to networking and knowledge sharing, as they were mentioned among the main successes in the participants' project related work.

The European policy context shows a clear potential for NBS to be better integrated into the different policies and initiatives of the EU Green Deal as means to address multiple societal challenges. Facilitating science and policy exchanges is essential for assuring this integration of NBS into policy. With an ever-increasing number of NBS projects, NetworkNature plays a crucial role in bringing them together to work towards creating synergies and common tools.

The work of the different Task Forces was outlined by their leads, highlighting their main products, resources and publications, as well as mentioning upcoming plans, opportunities for synergies and possible collaborations with other projects or Task Forces.

Useful tools were shared from different projects. For instance, INTERLACE presented its NBS Assessment Framework and CONEXUS its Participatory Assessment Framework. Different presentations and pitches highlighted the need to generate common practices, both in the design process and in the monitoring. Co-design and participation were also depicted as crucial steps for assuring NBS quality, as they facilitate new synergies and assure long-term acceptance of NBS.

The European Networks for Private Land Conservation – a landowners conservation initiative - were presented during the meeting. Capacity building, access to funding tools and information and citizen science were listed as crucial elements for assuring private owners' engagement.

Cross Task Forces interactions were enabled through the organisation of two parallel sessions, focused on selected topics which reflected the most important publications of the last semester. All parallel sessions were structured to enable discussions and interactions with the participants, in addition to providing knowledge and guidance on the different topics:

- *01 Evaluating the impact of NBS: using a common framework*
- *02 The vital role of NBS in a nature-positive economy*
- *A third parallel session was a networking session, where participants had the opportunity to discuss and make new contacts.*

The meeting concluded with a session dedicated to inviting task forces to share their knowledge, towards the creation of effective and long-lasting policies.

Overall, the meeting, and the exchanges it triggered, stressed the importance to upscale NetworkNature's agenda through knowledge sharing and communication, not only between partners but also across the projects and Task Forces, and the wider NBS community that NetworkNature gathers.

This report provides a detailed summary of the meeting, and of the different sessions.

Introduction

Structure and objectives

The fourth Horizon 2020 Nature-Based Solutions Task Forces Cluster meeting, held in Brussels (Belgium) on 28th September 2022, aimed to bring together Task Force members, NetworkNature, and the European Commission (European Research Executive Agency and DG Research & Innovation) for a dialogue to take stock of achievements of the Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe Nature-based Solutions projects to date and to strengthen synergies and exchange to further increase their impact.

After a presentation on the EU policy context for NBS, an update from Task Forces outlined their key achievements during the last year and presented their plans for the next months. After this, a session on “Tools of tools” presented different documents and publications that aim to serve as a basis for upscaling NBS. To finalise the morning plenary, the European Network for Private Conservation presented its key work lines.

During the afternoon plenary, parallel sessions on selected topics gave participants the opportunity to interact and discuss the topics addressed in two EC publications where Task Forces have actively contributed: the evaluation of impact of NBS and on the vital role of NBS in a nature positive economy.

An interactive session concluded the meeting outlining the need and importance of networking and exchanging knowledge between different partners. Exchange between science and policy and the upcoming semester theme were presented during the closing remarks.

Participation

The Horizon 2020 Nature-Based Solutions Taskforce Meeting brought together at least 75 participants, including Task force members, NetworkNature, and the European Commission (European Research Executive Agency and DG Research & Innovation).

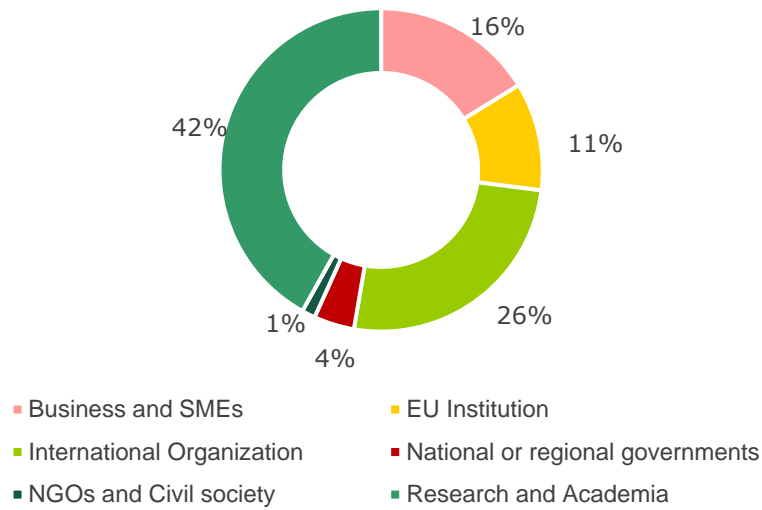


Figure 1 - Participants by stakeholder category

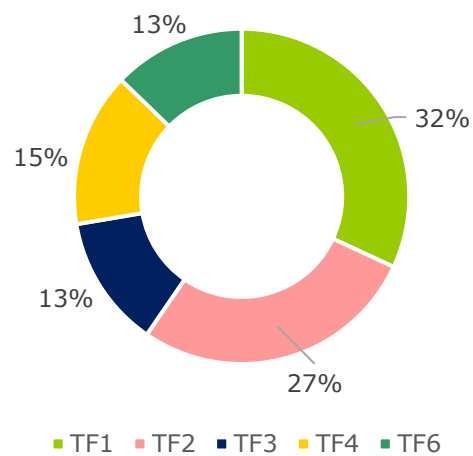


Figure 2 - Task Forces representation

At least 75 members of the five task forces participated in the meeting:

- *TF1: Data and knowledge sharing*
- *TF2: Integrated assessment framework*
- *TF3: Governance, business models and financial mechanisms*
- *TF4: NBS communicators*
- *TF6: Co-creation and governance*

Morning plenary

Nature-based solutions in the EU policy context

Paul Webb, Head of department for “Green Europe” research at the European Research Executive Agency of the European Commission, presented an overview of NBS in the EU policy context, mentioning the research agenda and the ongoing and upcoming laws in the framework of the EU Green Deal.

Reminding that nature is essential both for urban and rural areas, he listed some ongoing and upcoming European strategies and policies that acknowledge this fact: [EU Biodiversity Strategy](#), [the Urban Agenda for the EU](#), [EU Adaptation Strategy](#), [The New European Bauhaus](#), [the Nature Restoration Law](#), among others. In addition, he outlined the presence of NBS in ongoing and upcoming EU Missions, and the increase from 7,5% to 10% in biodiversity research.

He reflected upon the potential of NBS in the context of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects and encouraged the participants to spread knowledge on the potential of nature-based solutions. Mentioning the interactions between research and science, he reflected upon the way forward to drive research projects to convince society of the importance of NBS. Paul Webb stressed the importance to build on what has been produced and achieved in past projects, ensuring the continuity of NetworkNature with NetworkNature+. In this context he outlined the difficulty to capture and report on biodiversity.

Participants were encouraged to interact with policy makers during the meeting.

Updates from the Task Forces

TF1 | Data and Knowledge sharing | Jonathan Porter, Oppla

Jonathan Porter, Coordinator at [OPPLA](#) —the EU Repository for Nature-Based Solutions and partner of Network Nature— presented Task Force 1 on Data and Knowledge science.

He presented the case study database, that has now reached over 400 case studies, accessible from both the Oppla and NetworkNature platforms and includes notable recent additions by [Conexus](#) and [CLEARING HOUSE](#). Jonathan also communicated that the case study template has expanded to include the Impact Evaluation indicators from TF2 and encouraged all EU funded research and innovation projects to continue add their case studies to this growing shared repository.

He explained the development and core principles of the “Shared data management plan” (available in the task forces space in NetworkNature) that has been coproduced by TF1 members and that has as main objective that of sharing data between different projects. It integrates open licenses where possible, shares cases studies, creates metadata on

information of any shared datasets and documents the processing methods used to collect data. It also identifies on each data management plan the level of access to data and knowledge products, and it is currently being considered whether free and open-source software can be used and developed to support innovation. He finally pointed out one of the current focusses of TF 1: the development of a shared metadata structure, led by [URBANGreenUP](#), [URBiNAT](#) and [PONDERFUL](#).

In relation with the upcoming activities, he mentioned four main points: the development of an action plan for the next year to be published in January 2023; the objective of sharing experiences of legacy planning for NBS projects, exploring synergies with the Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity and integrating additional members including new Horizon Europe projects.

More information can be found in the slides ([7-12](#)).

TF2 | Impact Assessment Framework | Verónica Ruiz, IUCN Global

Verónica Ruiz, Programme Manager for Disaster and Climate Resilience at IUCN Global, presented the updates for Task Force 2 on Impact Assessment Framework.

She first explained that, during 2021, this Task Force has focused on the publication of [“Evaluating the Impact of Nature-based Solutions – a Handbook for practitioners”](#). This document provides practitioners with a comprehensive NBS impact assessment framework, and a robust set of indicators and methodologies to assess impacts of NBS across 12 societal challenges.

Sher informed about the long-term objective of the group, that is monitoring how the handbook is used in order to improve it. The short-term objectives are designed to contribute to the long-term while increasing collaboration and synergies across EU funded projects as well as boosting their visibility and impact. This is allowed by the definition of four different workstreams.

Verónica presented the workstream (WS) in relation with “Handbook monitoring, testing and implementation”. This workstream is defined by its vision and actions. The vision is established on the concept that, to mainstream NBS, it is necessary to build an evidence-base of their impacts. To support practitioners to build this evidence-base, a guidebook on NBS evaluation indicators has been developed. Veronica stressed the need to test and monitor the handbook indicators while compiling evidence. Current actions are focused on promoting visibility and use of the Handbook, on updating its content, and on testing it (on the youngest H2020 NBS projects and beyond the urban context).

In addition, Verónica highlighted some key elements of the workstream on NBS and Biodiversity. 72 experts are involved in 31 projects, working together in developing and handbook on biodiversity. The handbook contributes to evaluating the impact of NBS in relation with the European Commission Societal Challenge “Biodiversity enhancement”, working on 7 core indicators and 31 additional indicators.

Verónica concluded her intervention by mentioning the other two workstreams: NBS and Marine environment and NBS and health.

More information can be found in the slides ([13-19](#)).

TF3 | Governance, Business Models and Financial Mechanisms | Victoria Blessing, S2i

Victoria Blessing, Project Manager at Steinbeis-Europa-Zentrum, presented the work of Task Force 3, on governance, business models and financial mechanisms.

First, Victoria introduced the four different workstreams (WS) of Task Force 3 and their different outcomes. WS1, on EU mapping of financing instruments, is preparing a publication on financing NBS, including basic concepts and definitions. WS2, on Nature-based economy, has recently collaborated, together with TF2, in the EC Expert Publication "[The vital role of NBS in Nature-positive economy](#)". WS3, on Economic valuation of NBS benefits, has followed the economic valuation of NBS benefits in 19 EU-funded projects, to develop a dedicated journal paper or a report. WS4 on Economic Planning is currently developing a paper named "Spatial and urban planning: enabler or constraint for climate change adaptation? Exploring different instruments and experiences", with a key focus on climate change adaptation, following up on relevant policy topics, such as Urban Green Plans and Mission Adaptation Implementation plan. TF6 has collaborated with this workstream, informing on governance aspects of spatial planning.

Victoria also presented some future opportunities for synergies and collaborations with other Task Forces.

More information can be found in the slides ([20-24](#)).

TF4 | NBS communicators | Nea Pakarinen, ICLEI

Nea Pakarinen, Senior Officer Communications and Member Relations at ICLEI, presented the work of Task Force 4 on Communication.

Nea presented the structures and work including: the bi-monthly meetings, the social media campaigns, the joint resources to support communication, and the cross-projects promotions for increased visibility. She informed about three upcoming videos to use in events to introduce NBS (all videos are uploaded on the [NewtorkNature resources](#) as available).

More information can be found in the slides ([25-26](#)).

TF6 | Co-creation and co-governance | Isabel Ferreira, Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra

Isabel Ferreira, Researcher at the Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra, and member of the coordination team of URBiNAT, presented the work of Task Force 6, on co-creation and co-governance.

She presented the ongoing work: the Master Document which is to become guidelines on co-creation and co-governance, the decision tool and a survey. The Master document, currently under development by 5 workstreams is organised in different topics (main concepts, agents and mapping, co-governance approaches, co-creation action, understanding and lessons learned). The online decision tool for NBS co-creation provides the users with different pathways for co-governance and is being developed in collaboration with OPPLA. With the survey, TF6 mapped and collected a variety of case studies of NBS projects funded by the H2020 programme in which the co-creation and/or co-governance is part of their implementation or outcomes. This data collection will contribute to the production of guidelines, based on the analysis of 27 cases.

In addition, TF6 members have contributed with feedback to the [Guidance and toolbox of the Urban Greening Plans](#), which places co-creation at its core.

More information can be found in the slides ([27-36](#)).

Questions & Answers

During the questions and answers session, it was stressed that investment in nature-based solutions should not stop investment in infrastructure, as some countries (e.g. in the Global South) have shown some concern over the direction of investments. It was mentioned that it is necessary to have complementary solutions, not only technological but also social, outlining the need to broaden the perspective on what social cohesion is. Discussions —held by international units in DG RTD— are ongoing to collaborate more with South America.

Further, the audience was informed that the European Investment Bank has been discussing about 6 categories of NBS and has established some contact points for the different ecosystems in the Task Forces.

Panel: “Tools of tools” from the H2020 and HE NBS Projects

Johannes Langemeyer, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona | INTERLACE

Johannes Langemeyer, researcher at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, presented the [INTERLACE NBS Assessment Framework](#).

First, he mentioned the guiding principles – adaptability and transformative change, transparency and plural values, justice and social inclusivity- for ensuring both scientifically robust and co-created projects. The framework is based on a three-stage process: (1) the development of pilot Assessment framework (2) a tailor-made assessment framework in case studies that allows to identify critical issues and (3) the development of a generalized assessment framework.

After presenting several past assessment frameworks, outlining the need to integrate participatory approaches, and the main findings across them, he presented the main concepts of the INTERLACE NBS Assessment Framework: (a) step-wise, (b) co-creation, (c) modular and (d) hierarchical.

He concluded by identifying some challenges in relation with the guiding principles: communicating complexity, changing common praxis, and development of tools of tools.

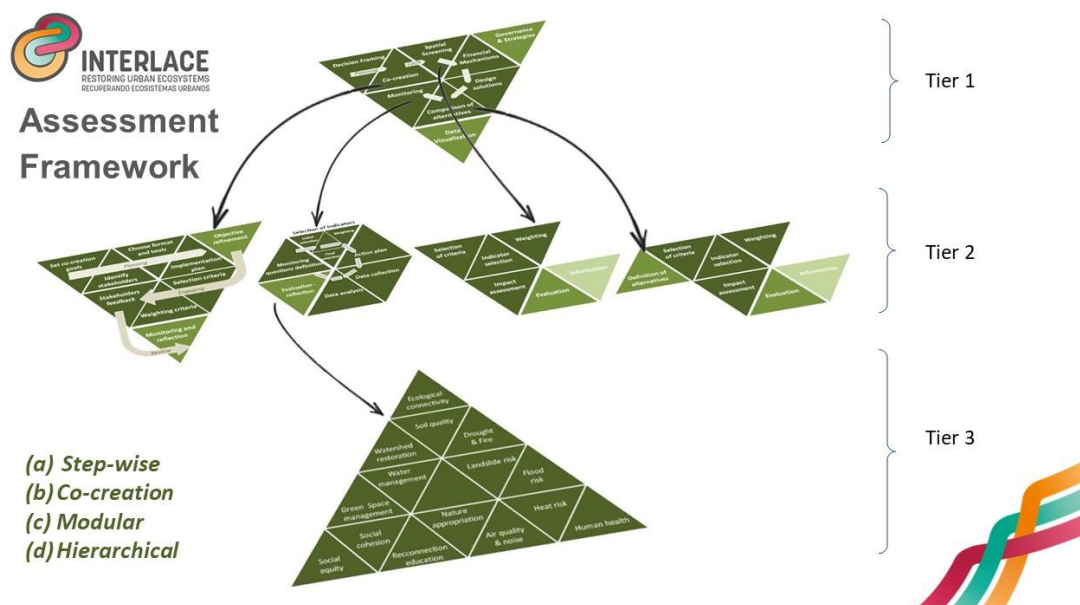


Figure 3 – INTERLACE NBS Assessment Framework

More information can be found in the slides ([40-56](#)).

Arjen Buijs, Wageningen University and Research | CONEXUS

Arjen Buijs, Senior Researcher at Wageningen University and Research, presented the [CONEXUS Participatory Assessment Framework](#), an action framework for the participatory assessment of nature-based solutions in cities that aims to improve assessment and mainstreaming of NBS.

Arjen presented the key points of CONEXUS participatory assessment framework, that lies on radical participation and provides governance and justice indicators. Arjen listed the most important criteria to assess participation, to define indicators and to provide guidance during the assessment process.

Noting different trade-offs of the criteria for defining indicators, Arjen outlined the need to have both contextualised assessment approaches and politicised co-production efforts to ensure that NBS effectively contribute to sustainable and just cities. As a conclusion, he proposed a framework for different stages and actions in participatory monitoring and assessment.

More information can be found in the slides ([58-67](#)).

Pitches in upcoming tools

A number of pitches on upcoming tools and resources were provided by projects and task forces' representatives.

Laura Sandra Leo | Operandum

Laura Sandra Leo, Senior Researcher at University of Bologna, presented a video about GeoIKP, a tool developed by the Operandum project which focuses on reducing risks – landslides, floods, coastal erosion - in the context of climate change. The Geospatial Information Knowledge Platform ([GeoIKP](#)) provides a space that integrates different options of NBS to address these risks. The platform addresses all type of stakeholders: citizen and local communities, policy makers, business and investors and scientists. External contributors and open-air laboratories are in charge of feeding the database. The key features of this database are: customization – as contact and information are tailored to the audience and users can share data -, and interactivity – as data can be represented in maps to illustrate projects according to user preference. The toolkit will be launched in the upcoming months. It will guide the selection of NBS for specific areas and suggest the NBS that may be most feasible and suitable.

More information can be found in the slides ([68](#)).

4 Sister projects | Emmanuel Sardis, euPOLIS | Katerina Lili, VARCITIES | Isotta MacFadden, IN-HABIT | Tadhg Macintyre, goGREENROUTES

The different representatives of the Horizon 2020 euPOLIS, VARCITIES, IN-HABIT and goGRENROUTES projects explained the scope of the cluster: to provide the European Commission with common indicators and a manifesto (expected in December 2022); to disseminate and communicate research and tools outcomes in related European and international events; to collaborate in consortiums for common NBS and to evaluate tools in different cities pilots, with a focus on health and wellbeing.

In relation with the common indicators for health and wellbeing, it was outlined that the selection of indicators was drawn from existing theoretical and practical frameworks, as well as exchange with cities. They have a broad approach to the health and wellbeing criteria, covering 15-20 sub-dimensions. Among tested solutions, they will suggest some common KPIs and methodologies, linking them with other projects and allowing citizen science use.

As regards to the manifesto, it will address the scale of the interventions, human and planetary health, gender, diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as digital and cultural components. This manifesto will then inform the common Key Performance Indicators framework.

More information can be found in the slides ([69-74](#)).

Workstream on NBS Biodiversity | Task Force 2 | Stuart Connop, Caroline Nash –University of East London, Esther San José and Raúl Sánchez –Fundación CARTIF

The representatives of TF2 presented the workstream on Biodiversity, that involves 31 projects and 72 experts. They informed that they are developing a mini handbook on biodiversity, doing a review of the indicators mentioned in the EC publication “Evaluating the Impact on Nature-based Solutions” to assess biodiversity.

More information can be found in the slides ([75-79](#)).

Task Force 6 | Sean Bradley, Groundwork London |

Sean Bradley presented the online NBS tool on co-creation being developed by TF6.

The decision tool is being developed targeting practitioners and decision makers that are considering the best ways to adopt or adapt governance strategies that are more adequate approaches to the co-creation of NBS. The tool will provide the users with different options in terms of pathways to move forward and with detailed tech notes. In the past months TF6 also met with city staff members from the City of Brussels and the City of São Paulo to analyse and discuss how tool can more effectively respond to the target groups’ needs.

He listed the different elements that would be presented in the tool -Technical notes, tools, case studies, possible policy summaries, reports - indicating that users would have many pathways as guidance. He also pointed out that the tool integrates vocabulary and definitions to ensure the reader and tool developer are using the same language. He finally presented a mapping function that would allow illustrating how the user is moving through the co-creation space.

The European Network for Private Land Conservation: creating financial incentives for private landowners and citizen science – joining forces with the NBS Cluster Taskforces?

Anne Sophie Mulier, Project and Policy Officer at European Landowners Organisation, presented the [“European Networks for Private Land Conservation”](#) (ENPLC) LIFE project, that brings together conservation NGOs and landowners organizations and is active in 11 EU Member States.

Anne Sophie presented the principle of private land conservation. She developed then the six key principles of the Conservation Landowners Coalition that connects landowners and conservationists.

- *“Civic engagement” works with citizen science and volunteering in Private Land Conservation (PLC).*

- *“PLC Ambassadors” promote the concept of PLC and network.*
- *“PLC tools” compile voluntary conservation management agreements, assess the use of voluntary labels, upscale successful case studies from previous LIFE projects and define key terminology in PLC.*
- *“PLC Funding/incentives” inform on financial incentives for landowners and funding sources for conservationists.*
- *Finally, “PLC guides” develop standards and practice guidelines for PLC and conservation landowners’ manual, and organise workshops on topics related to PLC.*

More information can be found in the slides ([82-92](#)).

Afternoon plenary

Introduction to parallel session

Two parallel sessions were organised with the objective of enabling skill and synergy building on selected topics.


Parallel sessions

Evaluating the Impact of Nature based solutions: Using a common framework
Grand auditorium

The vital role of NBS in a nature-positive economy
VIP Room

Networking space
Lebon & Dohnt

14:45 | 16:10

 Network Nature

Led by **TF2**
Verónica Ruiz
IUCN Global

Led by **TF3**
Daniela Rizzi
ICLEI

Figure 4 - Overview of parallel sessions

Parallel session 1: Evaluating the Impact of Nature-Based Solutions: Using a common framework.

Verónica Ruiz Garcia, IUCN Global, TF2

The main objectives of Parallel session 1 were to showcase examples and outcomes of the application of the “Evaluating the impact of Nature-based Solutions: a handbook for practitioners” in the H2020 urban research and innovation projects cluster, and to identify opportunities, challenges and barriers of its application, as well as gaps and limitations of the handbook itself.

The session started with presentations from [GrowGreen](#), [Urban GreenUp](#) and [UNaLab](#) projects and their lessons learned from the application of the “Evaluating the impact of Nature-based Solutions: a handbook for practitioners”. The presentations continued with a Q&A session.

During the discussion some key points were raised.

Participants agreed that KPIs, methodologies and results have to be comparable. A list of common challenges and corresponding criteria and indicators can be developed and each city can adopt them based on their condition. Indicators need to be informed by scale and type of intervention.

It was also discussed that, as the NBS Impact Evaluation Handbook is not currently universally well-known among the practitioners and data measurement and assessment are conducted through various tools and methods, it is challenging to compare the assessment results from different cities. It is expected that in the next generation of projects, common KPIs will be used based on the handbook. It is also important to notice that not all scientifically defined KPIs can be applied to each city in real life. In that sense, finding balance between the “ideal” and “available” data is key in the postprocessing of the assessments.

Speakers also mentioned the challenging process to find proper baselines for monitoring and evaluation and to identify the right actors and stakeholders for baselining and highlighted that long-term monitoring strategies are resource-consuming and require leadership, adding that stakeholder engagement is key for long-term monitoring and assessment.

Setting up policies with reporting obligations to address data availability and identifying common KPIs and indicators and implementing monitoring and post-life implementation strategies, based on the type of societal challenges that are addressed through NBS interventions were also identified as key important topics.

The session continued with a workshop on identifying challenges, limitations and gaps, missing pieces of the NBS Impact Evaluation Handbook, and suggestions on how to move forward.

Several outcomes were identified during the workshop.

Some of them refer to the handbook. Despite its complexity and length, the handbook allows some flexibility; nevertheless, it was suggested to identify basic indicators for comparing targets and results. Participants urged the need to include guidance for measuring the indicators (using the same methodology, tools and equipment) and financially supporting long-term monitoring.

In relation with the indicators, it was suggested to align them with international targets (e.g.: SDGs and Rio Convention targets), to harmonize and inform/organize them by scale and type of interventions. It was also proposed to translate some indicators from quality to quantity, quantifying the benefits for the beneficiaries.

Participants also proposed to draft some guidelines on engaging stakeholders to measure the impact of NBS and to create a repository of compiled data and information.

Parallel session 2: The vital role of NBS in a nature-positive economy

Daniela Rizzi, ICLEI, TF3

The main objectives of Parallel session 2 were to raise awareness among task forces and partners involved in H2020/Horizon Europe projects about the economic opportunities from NBS and explore opportunities for joint actions with other task forces.

The first part included short presentations from different speakers.

It started with a presentation of the publication “The vital role of NBS in a Nature-positive economy” that has involved more than 17 NBS projects, and that is mainly addressed to policy makers. That publication mentions regenerative economy – an economy respectful of nature – at the center of NBS, which lies on the links between NBS, bio-economy practices and circular economy.

During the presentation it was also outlined the need to increase private sector investment on NBS, and the need to address EC societal challenges. It was urged the need to shift from an economic goals first model to a nature positive and social goals first model. Some main barriers for the implementation of NBS were highlighted, such as inconsistent public policies, insufficient finances and the lack of regulation that adopts NBS on behalf of private sector.

A second part of the session focused on the Nature Restoration Law, outlining the need to work with different stakeholders and using technology as an enabler of NBS-Smart tech.

A third part focused on key recommendations of the expert report, outlining the need for standards, measurements and valuation, multi-level, cross-sectorial policy frameworks, increased investment in NBS, sectorial support for different stakeholders and capacity building and awareness.

A presentation made by [Sonian wood coop](#), a Brussels-based cooperative working with wood from Brussels, presented its business model based on the sustainable use of raw material (beech wood) locally available, and incorporating all the value chain in one organisation. Financed by impact investors that have social and environmental goals, they are working on an economically viable model that supports close-to-nature forestry and biodiversity objectives, by creating local jobs. They acknowledge that their business model cannot grow indefinitely as it is related to an existent forest.

Breakout groups were organised during the second part of the parallel session, and they were asked about the potential to develop the economic potential of NBS in their projects.

Some outcomes emerged from the different discussions.

The lack of focus on economic impacts and the lack of standard procedures for measuring valuable processes (such as carbon sequestration) were characterized as main barriers, together with the difficulty to delineate the term “nature-positive economy”. Some participants outlined also that even if NBS might present economic benefits, the projects are not generally required to measure them, as it is not their target.

Capacity building, case-based evidence, skills creation and policy creation were identified as potential facilitators of a nature-positive economy. It was outlined that there is an interlinked effect: the bigger the upscale of NBS, the greater the capacity to create jobs. Different

participants stressed the need to communicate on NBS to planners, investors and the private sector, together with ensuring changes in public procurement.

Some projects ([WeValueNature](#), [WATERLands](#), [Invest4Nature](#), MULTISOURCE) were presented for their promising focus on economy and monetary valuation.

The potential effects of climate change and its consequences on NBS and investors were also noted, both as a challenge and as an opportunity.

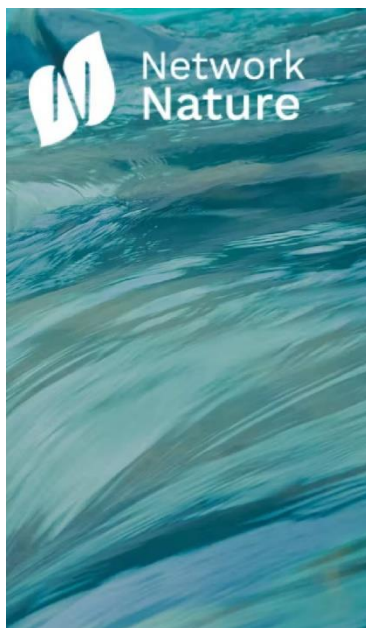
Parallel session 3: Networking space

During the networking space, different stakeholders gathered to discuss financial opportunities, synergies, and TF-related plans.

Interactive session

The mentimeter session permitted to have a clear view of the major outcomes of the event.

The main objective, networking, was also the main expectation of the participants and one of the major achievements of the NetworkNature Task Forces Cluster Meeting. Learning and sharing experiences were also listed between the most common expectations and outcomes.



What were your expectations at the beginning of this event?

Mentimeter



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Figure 5 – Interactive session’s outcomes

Participants mentioned that the Network Nature Task Forces Cluster Meeting was successful in providing a general overview on what other projects and task forces are doing and what is lacking, in enabling discussions on the key elements for successful implementation of NBS and on breaking silos.

Participants advices to ensure more interactivity and discussions in future meetings, focusing on workshops/sessions with clear objectives, gathering members of different task forces together, showcasing local and best practices showcases, and strengthening networking opportunities. NetworkNature is committed to apply these requests in future meetings.

Closing remarks

Sofie Vandewoestijne | European Research Executive Agency

Alice Reil | ICLEI

The NetworkNature Nature-based solutions Task Forces Cluster Meeting concluded with a closing speech from Sofie Vandewoestijne, from the European Research Executive Agency of the European Commission, thanking all participants, speakers and organisers.

Sofie started by reminding that Horizon projects have as main objective that of feeding results to policy, showing successful examples at EU and international level. For instance, she mentioned the Climate Adaptation Strategy and the Urban Greening Plans, and she noted that TF6 inputs on urban regeneration targets have contributed to that. Acknowledging the many challenges – different governance levels, the need for transdisciplinary work - she stressed the importance to work together and to learn from other projects. She invited participants to keep uploading case studies, expanding the use of materials produced by NetworkNature.

Alice Reil, Coordinator on Sustainable Resources, Climate and Resilience at ICLEI talked about the progress of NetworkNature over the years. Noting the policy framework to advance further

in NBS, she listed some of the next steps: data integration of different projects, upscaling NBS not only on urban areas but also on marine, coastal and soil ecosystems, and generating more evidence on financing to create nature-positive economy environments. She stressed the importance to contribute to NBS implementation through the generation of information and guidance and highlighted the opportunity to upscale NBS use during the implementation of upcoming policies.

In order to encourage the collaboration and work of the Task Forces and the support from Network Nature, she invited TF members to look ahead into next semester theme: NBS and education.

Follow-up actions

Collaboration and networking

The different sessions and presentations of the NetworkNature Task Forces Cluster Meeting provided relevant information as well as opportunities for networking and collaborations. Several participants expressed interest in collaborating with specific projects, Task Forces and policy areas.

NetworkNature believes that the engagement of different partners and projects can benefit the NBS community in acquiring new knowledge and experience, with the objective of creating impact, and will continue to enable such interactions. NetworkNature will take stock of the outcomes of this meeting, resulting from the interactions and discussions with the participants, to bring forward throughout the duration of the project and in the next Task force Cluster Meetings.

Table 1 – Information for networking and collaborations

Topic	Action
Task Forces	TF1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">If you would like to join Task Force 1: Data and Knowledge Sharing please contact jonathan@oppla.eu or Alberto.POZZA@ec.europa.eu
	TF2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">If interested in joining TF2 please contact: Laura PALOMO RIOS <Laura.PALOMO-RIOS@ec.europa.eu> and Verónica RUIZ GARCIA <Veronica.RUIZ@iucn.org>If interested to contribute to the NBS & Biodiversity work under TF2 please contact: Esther San José Carreras (estsan@cartif.es), Stuart Connop (s.p.connop@uel.ac.uk), Raúl Sánchez (rausan@cartif.es) & Caroline Nash (c.nash@uel.ac.uk)
	TF3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">To join TF3 contact: Victoria Blessing Victoria.Blessing@steinbeis-europa.de
	TF4 <ul style="list-style-type: none">All new projects' communicators are encouraged to join TF4 - please email kassia.rudd@iclei.org and hello@networknature.eu
	TF6 <ul style="list-style-type: none">If interested in joining TF6, please contact 'GIONFRA Susanna' <susanna.gionfra@iucn.org>; Knud Erik Hilding-Hamann <khi@teknologisk.dk>; or Isabel Ferreira <isabelferreira@ces.uc.pt>

Relevant publications and initiatives

European policies:

- [EU Biodiversity Strategy](#)
- [The Urban Agenda for the EU](#)
- [EU Adaptation Strategy](#)
- [The New European Bauhaus](#)
- [The Nature Restoration Law](#)
- [Urban Greening Plans](#)
- [European Climate Law](#)

Online resources:

- *Network Nature:*
Database of EU Research and innovation projects on nature-based solutions
<https://networknature.eu/ridb>
- *Oppla Case Study Database:*
<https://oppla.eu/case-study-finder>
- *GeoIKP- Platform for Nature-based solutions*
<https://geoikp.operandum-project.eu/>
- *European Networks for Private Land Conservation*
www.enplc.eu

Publications:

- *Evaluating the impact of nature-based solutions: A handbook for practitioners*
<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/d7d496b5-ad4e-11eb-9767-01aa75ed71a1>
- *The vital role of nature-based solutions in a nature positive economy*
<https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-law-and-publications/publication-detail/-/publication/85aeb571-c69c-11ec-b6f4-01aa75ed71a1>
- CONEXUS participatory assessment framework
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13280-022-01772-6>

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