Network Nature Report

NbS Task Forces Cluster Meeting

WP1

IUCN

November 2024

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Executive summary

The NetworkNature Nature-based Solutions (NbS) Task Forces Cluster Meeting took place on September 24th, 2024, in Brussels, Belgium. It brought together more than 100 participants, including members of all NbS Task Forces, representatives of NbS Hubs and the European Commission.

A panel discussion offered the opportunity to NbS TFs and NbS Hubs representatives to share their key outcomes, future objectives, and to explore synergies and paths for collaboration. Panellists underscored the importance of a reciprocal flow of information between TFs and Hubs, and the necessity to further connect these essential components of the NbS community.

Through a plenary session, the Biodiversa+ and BioAgora projects were introduced, and showcased the essential role of partnership initiatives in bridging research and policy. Delving into the topic of standardisation, a review of NetworkNature latest achievements was provided, shedding light on the collaboration with HS Booster, while the Italian Standards Body (UNI) shared its previous work on NbS Standardisation.

The meeting included a Think-Pair-Share interactive session, where participants were invited to reflect on the future work on NbS standardisation. The CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA) process was introduced, and followed by a group reflection on the possible scope for a NetworkNature CWA.

The meeting proceeded with the Networking Tables, an innovative workshop-style session which provided space to advance the process of the NetworkNature Labs, a series of 4 open calls aiming to promote and facilitate the development of new outputs within the NbS Task Forces. Building on the proposals submitted through the Open Call 1, the session provided an opportunity for cross-TFs collaboration, for the further elaboration of ideas, and the creation of core croups around idea leaders.

During lunch and coffee breaks, an exhibition of posters on case studies by the NbS Hubs was held, exposing participants to real life-examples of NbS.

Introduction

Structure and objectives

The **Nature-based Solutions (NbS) Task Forces Cluster Meeting,** the second of the NetrowkNaturePLUS phase, was held in person on September 24th at the KVS (Royal Flemish Theatre) in Brussels. It gathered TFs members, NbS Hubs representatives, as well as the European Commission (European Research Executive Agency, DG Research & Innovation and DG Environment), with the overall purpose to foster exchanges and cross-collaboration within the NbS community.

The morning plenary session aimed to bring together TFs members and NbS Hubs to discuss potential synergies between them, and to bring a focus on **standardisation.** The afternoon took a workshop approach to advance the process of the **NetworkNature Labs** and foster cross-TFs collaboration by discussing the ideas submitted through the Open Call 1.

During lunch and coffee breaks, **an exhibition of posters on case studies implemented by the NbS Hubs was held**, exposing participants to real life-examples of NbS.

The agenda of the meeting is provided in Annex I.

Participation

The TFs Cluster Meeting gathered **more than 100 participants** from TFs, NbS Hubs representatives and the European Commission. All six TFs were represented, as shown in the graph below.
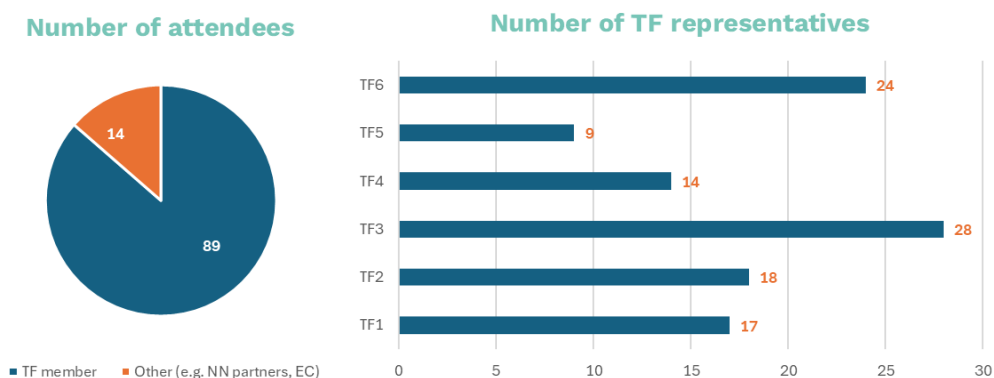
Enhancing Collaboration and Building Synergies between NbS TFs and NbS Hubs for Nature-Based Solutions

Welcome speech | Susanna Gionfra, IUCN EURO

Susanna Gionfra (IUCN EURO) opened the meeting by welcoming participants and emphasizing the importance of bringing together the diverse NbS community that NetworkNature is building. She encouraged everyone to take the opportunity of this day to explore synergies and partnerships.

The pivotal role of the TFs was highlighted, particularly in their ability to gather and synthesize the variety of approaches and outputs from NbS projects. This ensures the EU added value and policy relevance of this coherent portfolio, while maximizing social, ecological and innovation impact.

The NbS Hubs were then introduced as the vital links between the EU level and local, regional, and national levels. They are essential for engaging stakeholders within their local contexts to mainstream NbS across the policy levels at all scales.

Joint conversation between the TFs and Hubs

Through two panels, moderated by Susanna Gionfra (IUCN EURO), TFs and Hubs representatives **explored and discuss potential synergies and paths for collaboration.** The panels were composed of:

Panel 1	Panel 2
• Italy Hub: Chiara Catalano (CNR-IRET) • Hungary Hub: Mónika Németh (BURST Nonprofit Ltd.)	
• TF1: Paul Mahony (OPPLA) • TF2: Stuart Connop (University of East London) • TF3: Victoria Blessing (Steinbeis Europa Zentrum)	• TF4: Kassia Rudd (ICLEI) • TF5: Conor Dowling (Trinity College Dublin) • TF6: Israa Mahmoud (Politecnico di Milano)

TFs and Hubs shared key outcomes from their past work and their future objectives. Following this, they engaged in a reflective discussion to identify potential synergies. The Hubs were invited to consider which outputs and activities from the TFs could best support their goals, while TFs explored avenues for deeper collaboration with the Hubs. The insights from these discussions are captured in the table below.

TFs and Hubs' outcomes, future work, and paths for collaboration

TFs/Hubs	Previous outcomes and future objectives	Opportunities for collaboration
Italy Hub	• Launched in 2023 • Coordinated by CNR • Gathers diverse partners from public and private sector (municipalities, academia, etc) • Most active municipalities in North-Central Italy • 1st national Annual Meeting to be held on November 20-21st	• **Stakeholder engagement**: need to bring in all Italian regions • Accentuate connections between stakeholders, and with TFs • **Data collection and monitoring**: getting access to innovative biodiversity monitoring • **Overcoming the language barrier**: need for more Italian translation of NN documents
Hungarian Hub	• Launched in 2022 • Coordinated by BURST • Gathers 40 stakeholders from diverse sectors • Strong communication efforts through NN website and social media • Mostly focused on urban ecosystems	• **Stakeholder engagement**: need to engage the business sector and to experiment engagement methodologies in local contexts • **Overcoming the language barrier**: necessity to further engage with local communities • **Resources**: need for more practical content ("train the trainers" session, co-creation methods, etc) • **In-person collaboration**: Possibility to involve TFs in local meetings
TF1: Data and Knowledge Sharing	• Standardization: looking to develop standardized methods and data templates to monitor NbS • Operationalized next year	• **Data collection and monitoring**: Will provide standardized templates • **On-the-ground feedback** needed to integrate local practicalities

TF2: Integrated Assessment Framework	• Involves 19 projects • Published the *Handbook for Practitioners on Evaluating the impact of NbS*, now assessing feedback • Working on a Mini Biodiversity Handbook • Standardization: first attempt to create a small set of indicators, but the work with large number of different projects eventually led to a large set of indicators • Planning on creating an online database of indicators	• Accentuate connections and discussion within the practitioner's community • **Standardisation**: Possibility to design and provide practical indicators that can be implemented in different contexts • **On-the-ground feedback** needed
TF3: Finance and Business Models for NbS in a Nature-positive Economy	• Ongoing re-assessment of the TF title and workflows • Updating the EC Expert report *The Vital Role of Nature-based Solutions in a Nature-Positive Economy* • Focus on mapping finance instruments and models, business engagement, role of technology, … • Very active in organising and attending events e.g. several sessions in COP16.	• **Resources**: Can provide information to businesses at the local scale • **On-the-ground feedback** needed
TF4: NbS Communi-cators	• Created a video series on NbS and positive co-creation • Need to operationalize the TF's tools and create a common communication toolkit to avoid duplicating work (ex: NbSEduWORLD kit)	• **Resources**: creation of communication material for the Hubs • **Dissemination of information**: Potential to access local communities through the Hubs
TF5: NbS Education	• Newest TF • Aims at disseminating NN work by turning the project's outputs into learning materials • Launched a call for funding and collaboration with Horizon projects	• **On-the-ground feedback** and ideas • **Resources**: Can provide support with tools and deliverables that are Hubs-friendly
TF6: Co-creation & governance	• Published the *Guidelines for Co-Creation and Co-Governance of NbS* (2023) • Studying different contexts of stakeholders' engagement	• **Stakeholder engagement**: reach more people from the 3rd sector, potential to engage under spatial planning (through a survey on urban plan)

	and reflecting on how to reach beyond usual groups • Trying to work with diverse regions/countries	• **Transfer knowledge into practice**: opportunity to attend international events to bring knowledge to other contexts

The importance of collaboration between the NbS Hubs and NbS TFs was discussed, shedding light on the necessity for information flow between both components of the NbS community. **While the TFs produce outputs that can be valuable for the Hubs and applied at local levels, feedback from the Hubs is crucial to make TFs products adapted to different geographic contexts.** Panellists agreed that this TFs Meeting marked a strong starting point for such deeper collaboration.

In order to support the expansion of the existing NbS Hubs, NetworkNature is compiling a database of all the projects they collaborate with and indication of partners by country, so as to help mapping potential entities to engage in the Hubs.

Bridging Research & Policy

The Biodiversa+ Partnership | Frédéric Lemaître, Biodiversa+

Frédéric Lemaître (Biodiversa+) introduced the [Biodiversa+ European Biodiversity Partnership](#), an EU co-funded initiative that gathers 81 partners from 40 countries, in research and policy areas. Building on the EU policy context, in particular on the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030, **the Partnership aims at bridging research and policy** through:

- An improved **monitoring** of biodiversity and ecosystem services
- An actionable **knowledge** to tackle the drivers of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation
- An **evidence base** for development and deployment of NbS to societal challenges
- **Making the business case for biodiversity**
- A science-based **support for EU policy making**
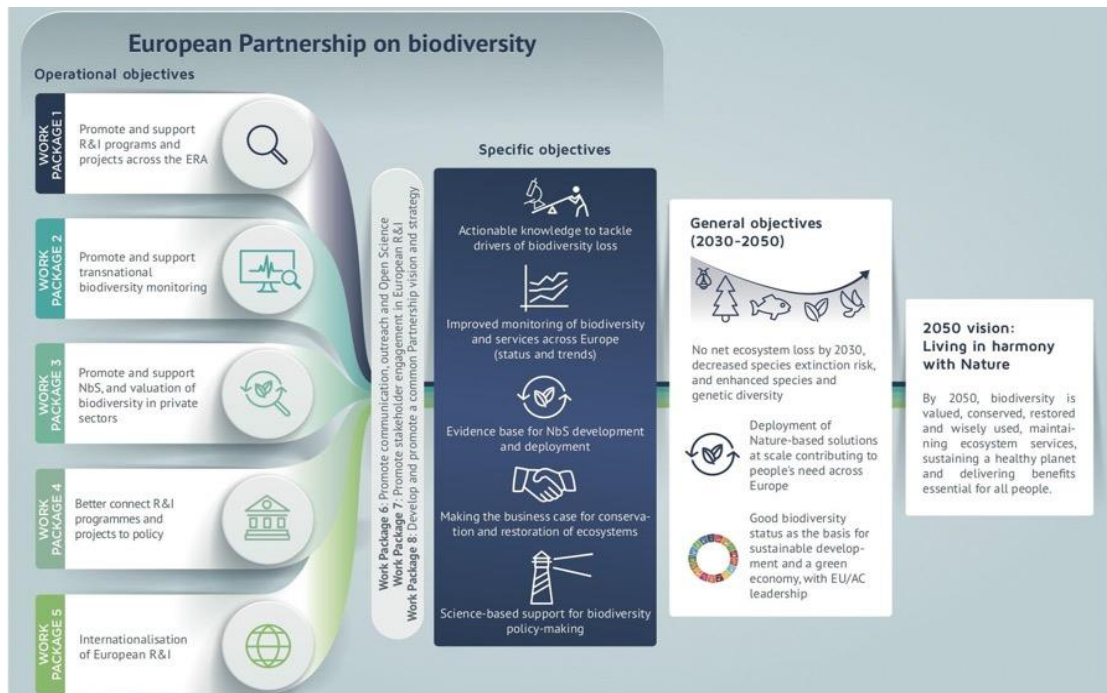
Vision and objectives of the Biodiversa+ Partnership
(Credits: Biodiversa+)

The Partnership strategy is defined within their [Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda](#), which sets the long-term vision of Biodiversa+, including broad research themes that will guide a wide range of activities over the coming years.
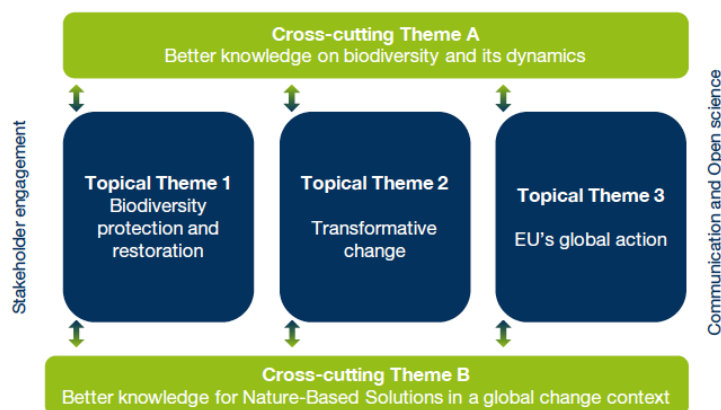
Research themes within Biodiversa+ SRIA
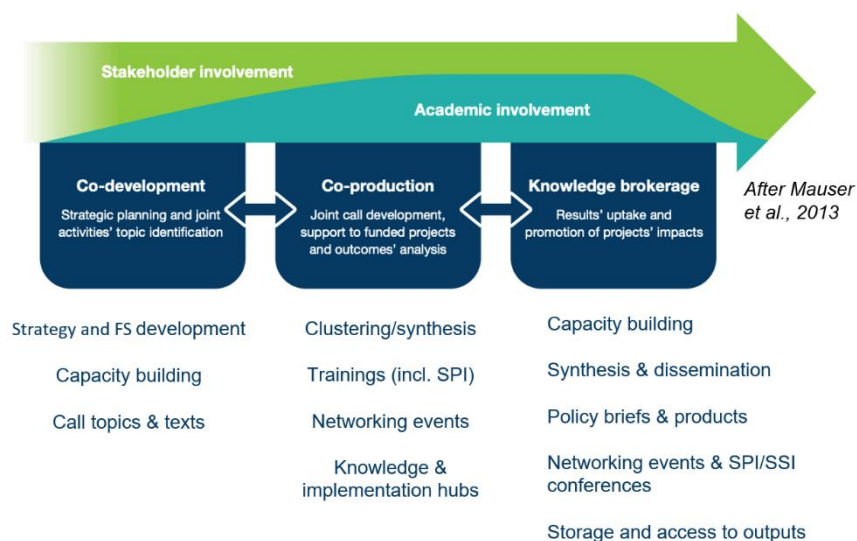*(Credits: Biodiversa+)*

This set of activities is being implemented through **Flagship Programmes**, with 4 already launched: Conservation & Restoration, Biodiversity Monitoring, Nature-based Solutions, and Societal Transformation. Each of these existing

programmes includes a call for research proposals, although this may not necessarily be the case for future programmes.

To bridge the gap between science and policy, the Partnership follows a three-steps approach:

1. **Before knowledge production**: Co-identifying and refining research needs
2. **During knowledge production**: Developing research, policies, and practitioners' collaboration
3. **Once knowledge is available**: Feeding policy design and implementation

Throughout the whole research development process, **Biodiversa+ promotes and commits to a stakeholder involvement strategy**, thereby increasing the societal impact of the funded research. This approach has been translated in a _Stakeholder Engagement Handbook_, which provides guidance to researchers on planning, managing, and monitoring engagement activities.

Approach and examples of activities used by Biodiversa+ to engage stakeholders

(Credits: Biodiversa+)

Biodiversa+ also published and is currently updating the _Guide on Policy Relevance of Research_, which aims at helping researchers to build an effective science-policy interfacing in their research proposals.

Finally, Frédéric announced the opening of a **call for research projects on Biodiversity and Transformative change (BiodivTransform)**, available here.

The BioAgora Collaborative Project | Chiara Cortinovis, BioAgora

Chiara Cortinovis (BioAgora) presented the Bio Knowledge Agora (BioAgora), a collaborative five-year Horizon project (2022-2027) that aims to **improve the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) for biodiversity**, which includes the Science Service for Biodiversity (SSBD). BioAgora's work is structured around 4 main objectives:

1. Orchestrate and **assess existing SPI networks and stakeholders**
2. **Use demonstration cases** across the EU that ratchet up the implementation of biodiversity commitments
3. **Promote capacity-building and co-learning processes** for an inclusive and functional SPI for biodiversity
4. Develop a fair, functional and transformative SPI including **setting up Science Service for Biodiversity (SSBD)**

The SSBD is designed around 3 core functions, as illustrated in the visual below, while remaining open to the possibility of additional functions.
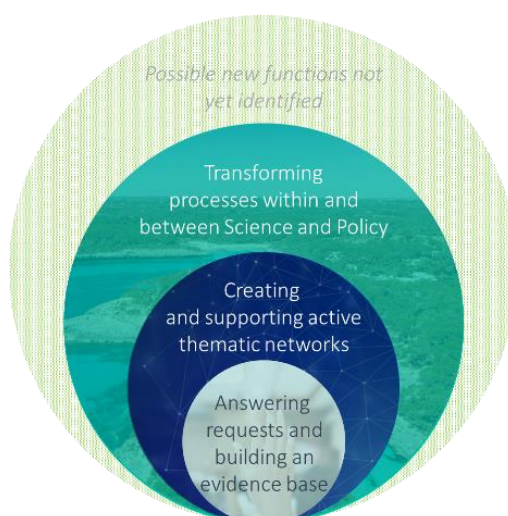
Main functions of the EU SSBD proposed by BioAgora
(Credits: BioAgora)

To test these functions, BioAgora is using a demonstration case on urban NbS, specifically on the implementation of Urban Nation Plans (UNP) in the European cities. The selected testing activities will build on the collaboration with NetworkNature, incorporating practitioners' opinions and knowledge needs gathered through a Delphi survey, as well as observations conducted within the EUBP sub-group on Green Infrastructure.

The first function – addressing requests from the EC – will be tested soon following the process illustrated below. BioAgora invites contributions to help respond to these requests.
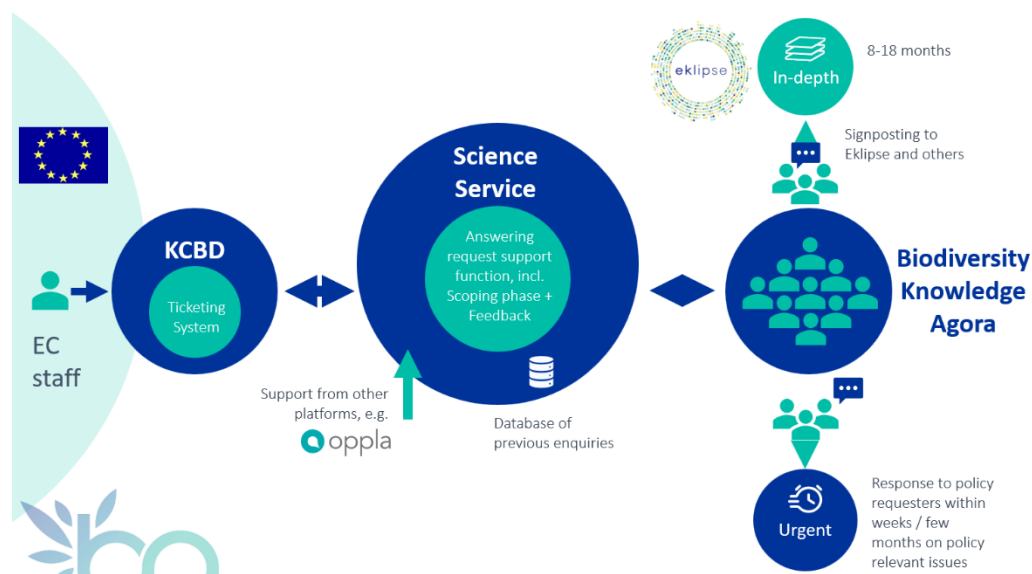
Process of SSBD's function on answering requests of different types (urgent, long-term)
(Credits: BioAgora)

Scaling knowledge and expertise through standardisation

Introductory words | Monika Heyder, ICLEI Europe; Karin Zaunberger, DG ENV (EC)

The second part of the plenary session was introduced by Monika Heyder (ICLEI Europe), who stressed the importance of standardization for NbS to prevent both intentional and unintentional misuse of the concept while facilitating the translation of NbS knowledge into practical implementation.

Karin Zaunberger (DG ENV, European Commission) reinforced this point by highlighting the necessity of properly considering the environmental, social and economic pillars of NbS during their implementation. She underscored the importance of gathering feedback from on-the-ground practitioners to

ensure inclusive negotiations in developing standards and criteria. While cities increasingly call for transformative change, Karin stressed the **need to accelerate the ongoing standardization process**, as it plays a crucial role in achieving this transformation effectively.

Review of Completed Work | Daniela Rizzi, ICLEI Europe; Giacomo Riccio, Italian Standards Body (UNI)

Daniela Rizzi (ICLEI Europe) presented NetworkNature latest actions, starting with the **project's awareness strategy** driven by the TF members and individual projects, respectively through outcomes and output orientation. **As part of the collaboration with the HS Booster, a 4-workshops series was held** between March and June 2024. These workshops gathered TFs members from 76 NbS projects to reflect on standards' needs, share screening tips and project's outcomes related to standardisation. A report summarising these sessions is currently under development.

Daniela reminded the origin of the standardisation workflow, which stems from a joint initiative between CleverCities, NetworkNature, and standardisation committees (CEN/CENELEC SF-SSC), culminating in the publication of a *Standardisation Roadmap for NbS* in July 2023.

In the context of the NN-HS Booster collaboration, **Giacomo Riccio (UNI), sponsored by HS Booster, shared UNI's past work on standardisation and NbS.** He began by presenting a map of standardisation bodies, highlighting that stakeholders operate at national (UNI, EAOT, DIN...), European (CEN, CENELEC, ETSI) and international (ISO, IEC, ITU) levels underscoring the importance of effective linkages among these entities. In this spirit of collaboration, UNI was involved in the CEN-CENELEC-ETSI Sector Forum on Smart and Sustainable Cities and Communities (SSCC), alongside various stakeholders including the EC and NN partners such as ICLEI and IUCN.

Within the Forum's Task Group on NbS, UNI has contributed by mapping existing standards and relevant documents (up to November 2022), followed by the identification of standardisation needs within the NbS sector (until March 2023). This work resulted in the drafting of recommendations for uptake by the CEN/CENELEC/ETSI (Annex III) and relevant technical bodies (September 2023), which led to the establishment working group on NbS terminology of the European technical committee on "Sustainable Cities and Communities" (CEN/TC 465, WG1). The group has drafted a **NbS Terminology**

and Principles (preEN 18140) which is currently under inquiry phase, with expectations for completion by the first quarter of 2024.
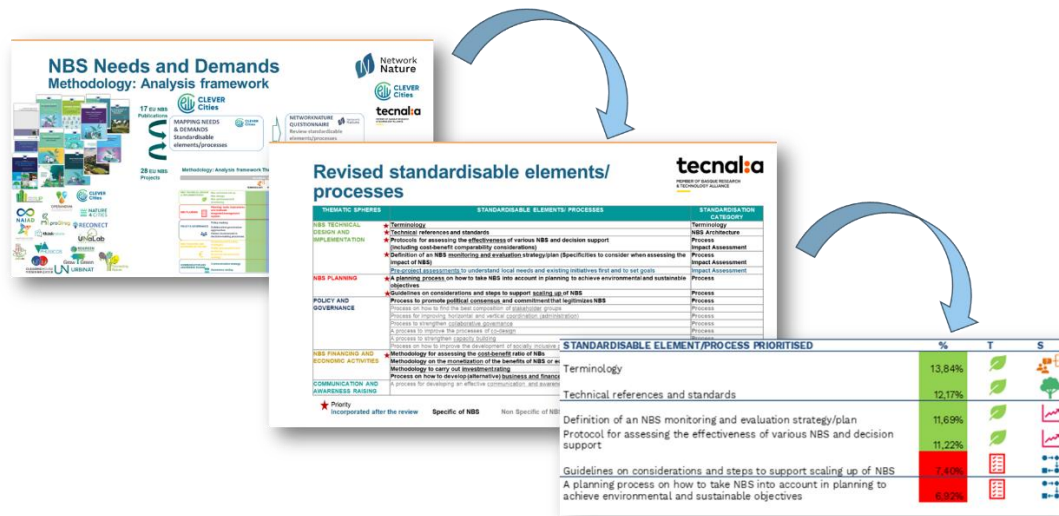
Process for drafting the recommended priorities
(Credits: UNI)

Finally, Giacomo called for interested contributors to join the working group.

Think-Pair-Share

Attendees were invited to pair for an interactive session on the future work on NbS standardisation. Discussions were structured along the following questions:

- *What priority topics or themes are essential to advance the uptake of NbS?*
- *Why is this topic important to you?*
- *Who are the stakeholders that need to be involved?*

Exchanges covered various themes, from standards, monitoring strategy and impact assessment to NbS governance process, finance and investment.


Results of the Think-Pair-Share activity
(Credits: ICLEI)

Introduction of CEN Workshop Agreement | Giacomo Riccio (UNI)

Giacomo Riccio (UNI) introduced the CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA), **a reference document which acts as a bridge between a project's innovative results and formal standardisation.** The CWA document represents an output that retains value and remains useful even after projects closure.

Unlike other deliverables - such as the European Standard (EN), the Technical Specification (TS) or the Technical Report (TR) - **the CWA is the result of a consensus developed during a CEN/CENELEC Workshop.** This allows to capture knowledge from stakeholders outside Technical Committees (TCs), thus ensuring a fast-track approach to standardisation activities within a wide stakeholder engagement setting.

The CWA is developed during a collaborative process according to the following main steps.
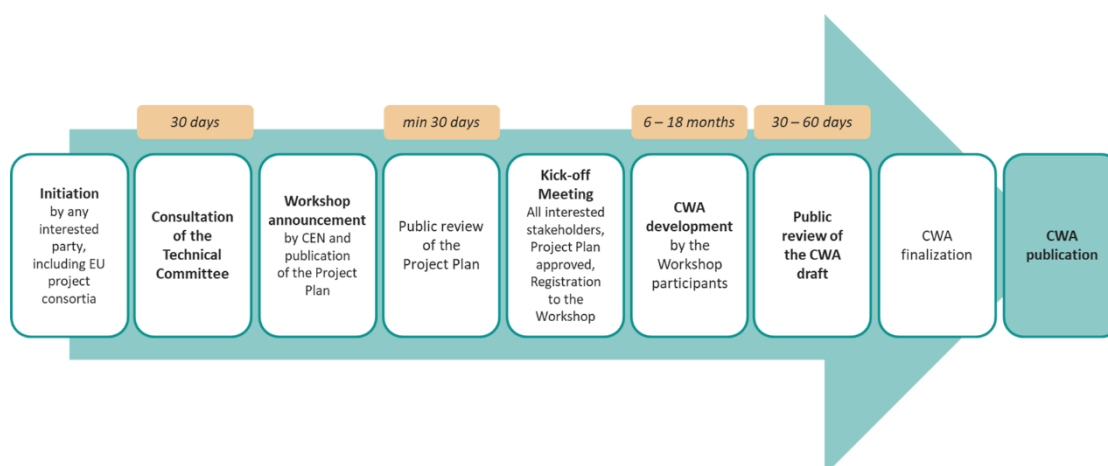
The CWA process, Source CEN/CENELEC 2024

A CWA is valid for 3 years, after which the workshop participants must decide whether to modify it (extension for another 3 years, revision or withdrawal) or upgrade it into a European (EN) or ISO standard. Thus, the CWA serves as a precursor to more formal standards. More information on the process can be found in the CEN-CENELEC Guide 29.

Finally, examples of existing CWA from projects on urban sustainability were displayed, as shown in the table below.

CWA examples in urban sustainability, UNI 2024

Project	CWA
SMR, RESCCUE, Smart Resilience	CWA 17301:2018 City Resilience Development - Maturity Model
SHELTER, RESILOC	CWA 17727:2022 City Resilience Development - Guide to combine disaster risk management and climate change adaptation - Historic areas
SMR	CWA 17300:2018 City Resilience Development – Operational Guidance
SMR, RESCCUE, RESOLUTE	CWA 17302:2018 City Resilience Development – Information Portal
EUB SuperHub	CWA 18127:2024 EUB SuperHub - A harmonization of KPIs for supporting the next generation of EPCs

Breakout Session: Possible scope for a NetworkNature CWA

To **explore the options to launch a NetworkNature CWA**, a group work moderated by ICLEI was held, focusing on brainstorming the potential scope for a CWA on NbS. Building on the reflections developed during the Think-Pair-Share, participants selected topics and worked within their group to draft scope outlines including essential information, guided by the structure below.

Structure	Explanation	Example: Standard ISO 37101 Sustainable management
WHAT	Topic and purpose of the standard	*The standard establishes requirements for a management system for sustainable development.*
HOW	Methodology of implementation	*It is implemented by an organization through strategies, programmes, projects, plans and services. It can be used in whole or in part.*
WHERE	Context of implementation	*It can be implemented in developed or developing countries, at local/regional/national levels.*
WHO	Target group	*It is applicable to communities of all sizes, structures and types.*

In a collaborative way, participants discussed and priorities more than 10 scopes. Out of these four proposals were presented to the audience by the respective group. All ideas will be collated soon from the post-its and craft paper, and made available for everyone to vote on the best one. The CEN/TC 465 WG 1 indicated an interest in the results to be presented in one of the

upcoming meetings. Further interactions with relevant stakeholders are being explored to fruition.

Breakout Session:
Brainstorming on a potential scope for a NetworkNature CWA
(Credits: ICLEI)

Networking Tables

The NetworkNature Labs Concept | Firdaous Halim (IUCN EURO)

Firdaous Halim (IUCN EURO) introduced the NetworkNature Labs, **a series of 4 open calls aiming to promote and facilitate the development of new outputs**, activities, initiatives, tools, standards, guidelines, publications, materials, etc in relation to NbS within the NbS Task Forces. To develop these outputs, the TF members will count on the support of **the NN TFs Operational Fund** of a total of 112 000€[1]. Eligible ideas for submission can be, but are not limited to, organising events, producing guidelines and standards, the implementation of NbS community-led initiatives, public awareness

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[1] NOTE: TF5 is excluded from this budget as it is managed and run through the NbS EduWorld project (separate funding)

campaigns, citizen-science initiatives, the creation of communication material, etc.
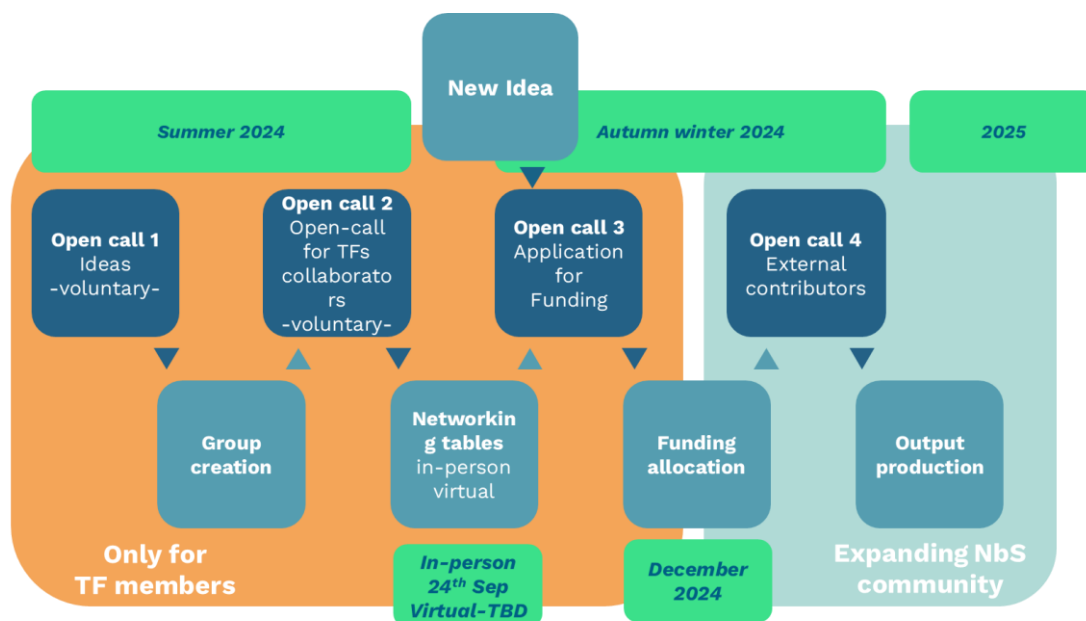
NN Labs process and timeline
(Credits: NetworkNature)

Networking Tables: Cross-TFs Collaboration

The Networking Tables aimed at providing the space for cross-collaboration among the TFs by **discussing and further co-developing the ideas submitted through the Open Call 1 and** to create and consolidate the **core groups - composed by an idea leader and TFs members.** A total of 25 ideas were received and grouped according to synergies, creating **10 themes that formed the 10 Networking Tables** as listed below (see Annex II for more details). Five of the submitted ideas will be discussed online at a later date, as their leaders were unable to join the meeting in person.

- *Publications and Methodologies on NbS Co-Creation and Co-Governance*
- *Implementing Digital Support Tools for the Co-Creation and Co-Governance of NbS*
- *Developing NbS Education and Training Modules for Different Target Groups*
- *AI Support Tools for NbS Projects*
- *Understanding Challenges and Activities of Nature-based Enterprises*
- *Insurance in the Context of NbS*

- *NbS Spatial Planning*
- *NbS Impact Evaluation tools*
- *Citizen Science for NbS*
- *Regenerative Tourism for NbS*

The 10 Networking Tables
(Credits: Giacomo Riccio)

Throughout the **Networking Tables session, participants discussed the ideas submitted to the Open Call 1**. To kickstart the discussion, each idea leader briefly presented their submitted idea to the participants, providing an overview of their proposal, its key goals, outputs, the users that will benefit from it, etc. Guiding questions plus the Open Call 3 Selection Criteria were provided to the participants to guide their discussions. Each Networking Table was joined by a **Networking Table catalyser** that helped stimulate the discussion while the idea leaders were the responsible for guiding and facilitating the conversation and the brainstorming around their submitted ideas.

The Networking Tables provided the opportunity for cross-TFs collaboration, for the further elaboration of ideas, and the creation of core croups.
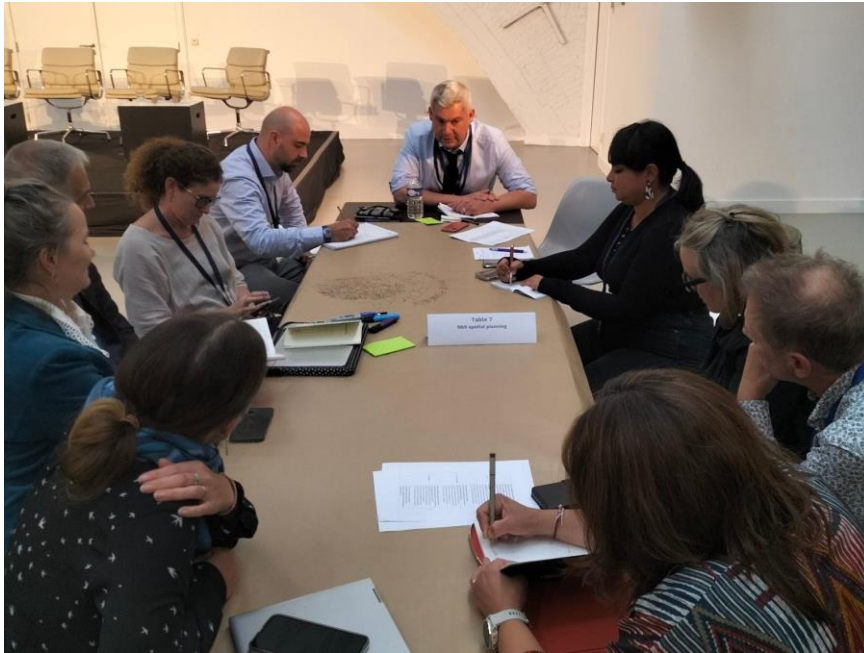
*The Networking Tables: Members from various TFs
discussing the ideas submitted to the NN Labs Open Call 1
(Credits: NbS Italy Hub)*

After the Networking Tables, the next steps for participants will be to:

1. **Review and Refine:** Review the feedback gathered during discussions. Refine or build the idea based on the input, the evaluation criteria, and address any identified gaps.
2. **Finalize the Core Group:** If not done during the TF meeting, finalize the core group by reaching out to potential collaborators from other TFs. Contributors are encouraged to consider inviting members within different TFs, to promote cross TF collaboration, and to look for expertise in areas where the idea might need strengthening.
3. **Identify and Address Missing Criteria:** Review the evaluation criteria, work with the core group to strengthen weaker sections and ensure that all criteria are thoroughly addressed.
4. **Plan Follow-Up Meetings:** Schedule follow-up meetings with the core group to further develop the proposal.
5. **Submit to the Open Call 3**

Next Step: Open Call 3

Following the TFs Cluster Meeting, the **Open Call 3 – Application for Funding** was launched on October 24th, the deadline for submission being **January 15th**, included. **Applying to this open call is the only opportunity to access funding. New ideas can be submitted** at this stage, even if they did not go through the previous Open Calls. The submissions will be assessed against 13 Selection Criteria by IUCN and NetworkNature partners who are leading the TFs.

NetworkNature will support idea leaders in building their core group before submitting to the Open Call 3. **To request support, idea leaders can fill in this form by November 15th**. An online meeting dedicated to all TF members will be organized by NetworkNature on 12 November to answer further questions.

Task Forces Specific Tables

After the Networking Tables session, each TF had the opportunity to gather in-person for a TF specific meeting to discuss ongoing and future work.

Conclusion and Next Steps

Firdaous Halim (IUCN EURO) and Susanna Gionfra (IUCN EURO) wrapped up the day by summarising key take-away messages and looking ahead to the future work of the Task Forces.

The audience was asked whether they had found the discussions valuable and felt that meaningful collaboration had taken place. A lot of raising hands was the response—a clear reflection of the event's spirit and mission.

The shared enthusiasm during the day underscored the importance of connecting the Task Forces (TFs) and Hubs, reinforcing the idea that **true progress in Nature-based Solutions requires not just outputs, but the exchange of insights and experiences across different scales** to ensure local adaptability and relevance. As a next step, NetworkNature will actively explore ways to deepen and enhance NbS TFs-NbS Hubs collaboration moving forward. For instance, efforts will be made to ensure a direct link is made between the local partners of the NbS projects and the NbS Hubs and database to support this process was proposed.

The day also provided the opportunity to brainstorm **new standardisation ideas**, both at the project level – through the drafting of a potential NetworkNature CEN Workshop Agreement – and within the TF-Hubs collaboration.

In addition, the meeting marked a significant **step forward in advancing the NN Labs process** through the Networking Tables. The discussions helped further develop ideas submitted in Open Call 1 through a cross-TFs discussion, providing opportunity for the creation of core croups, and preparing and consolidating the ideas for submission to the Open Call 3 - Application for funding.

The momentum continued at the **NetworkNature Annual Event** held the following day, **gathering the wider NbS community** to deepen collaborations, challenge myths on how we engage with nature and explore the potential of Nature-based Solutions to foster this shift.

Annex I: Agenda

8h30 9h00	Welcome & Registration

Opening Session 09h00- 10h00		
Enhancing Collaboration and Building Synergies between NbS Task Forces and NbS Hubs for Nature-Based Solutions		
The opening session will start by welcoming the participants to the NetworkNature NbS Task Forces Cluster Meeting, presenting the focus and objectives of the day, and detailing its agenda. During a joint conversation, the NbS TFs and the NbS Hubs representatives, will explore and discuss potential avenues for collaborations.		
09h00 09h10	Welcoming Speech & Agenda	IUCN
09h10 10h00	Joint Conversation between NbS TFs and the NbS Hubs.	**NbS TFs Representatives:** • TF1 - Paul Mahony • TF2 - Stuart Connop • TF3 - Victoria Blessing • TF4 - Kassia Rudd • TF5 - Conor Mark Dowling • TF6 - Israa Mahmoud **NbS Hubs Representatives:** • Chiara Catalano, CNR • Mónika Németh, BURST Nonprofit Ltd.
Plenary Session 10h00- 12h30		
Bridging Research & Policy		
The plenary session focuses on bridging research and policy. It will showcase the role of partnership projects and delve into the role of standardisation.		
10h00 10h10	The Biodiversa Partnership	Frédéric Lemaître, Biodiversa+
10h10 10h20	The BioAgora Collaborative Project	Chiara Cortinovis, BioAgora

10h20 12h30	**Scaling knowledge and expertise through standardisation**	
	During this hands-on session, we will kick off our first standard on the European level brought forward by NetworkNature. We will build on the findings of this year's webinar and workshop series conducted by the HS Booster and translate the standardisation priorities identified into a standard to scale NetworkNature's output. In the session, we will introduce the CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA) process, emphasising the crucial role of your contributions, brainstorm on the content and plan the way forward. The CWA allows us to fast-track to standardisation activities in a wide stakeholder engagement setting. We will brainstorm on possible chapters and outlines for the document.	
10h20 10h30	Session Introduction & Words by The Directorate-General for Environment	Monika Heyder, ICLEI Karin Zaunberger, DG ENV
10h30 10h40	Review of Completed Work	Giacomo Riccio, UNI Daniela Rizzi, ICLEI
10h40 10h50	Think-Pair-Share (Part 1)	All Participants
10h50 11h20	**Coffee Break**	The break area will feature posters on NbS case studies by the **NbS Hubs**
11h20 11h30	Think-Pair-Share (Part 2)	Monika Heyder, ICLEI
11h30 11h40	Introduction of CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA)	Giacomo Riccio, UNI
11h40 11h45	Introducing the Break-Out Session	Monika Heyder, ICLEI
11h45 12h10	Breakout Session: Scope	ICLEI
12h10 12h20	Breakout Session: Results Presentation	All Participants
12h20 12h30	Wrap-up and Next Steps	Monika Heyder, ICLEI
12h30 13h45	**Lunch Break**	The break area will feature posters on NbS case studies by the **NbS Hubs**

Afternoon Session 13h45 – 18h10
Networking Tables

Presenting the NN Labs and the Networking Tables concept, followed by groups creation around the tables, cross-TFs collaborations, then TFs specific tables.

13h45 14h00	Presenting the NN Labs concept	IUCN
14h00 16h45	**Networking Tables – Cross-TFs Collaboration**	
15h45 16h00	**Coffee break**	The break area will feature posters on NbS case studies by the **NbS Hubs**
16h00 16h45	Continuation of the Networking tables (TFs members are given the opportunity to explore other Networking tables)	
16h45 18h00	**TF Specific Tables** Each TF will have a dedicated table to meet with their members	
18h00 18h10	**Final Speech: Conclusions and Next Steps**	IUCN

Annex II: Ideas within the Networking Tables

Submitted ideas with clear interlinkages were grouped per theme, which constituted the 10 Networking Tables. Below are the ideas that will be discussed within each Networking Table, presented by their title, the idea leader, their specific TFs and project(s). The Networking Tables aim to facilitate discussions and cross-TFs collaborations. During the Networking Tables, ideas might evolve, change, emerge, converge, or dissolve.

Networking Table 1 - Publications and Methodologies on NbS Co-Creation and Co-Governance

Handbook on NbS (co-) governance	Viktor Bukovszki, TF6, JUSTNature, GreenInCities
Co-Creation Fit-for-All for Inclusive Green Cities	Daniela Melandri, TF4, DivAirCity
Creating a bio-socio-cultural approach to fostering NBS for societal transformation	Rik De Vreese, TF3, TF6, UNPplus; on behalf of Ilaria Doimo, TF3, RESONATE Horizon
Co-creation of nature-based solutions in deprived and informal territories from southern Brazil	Beatriz Caitana da Silva, TF6, URBiNAT

Networking Table 2 - Implementing Digital Support Tools for the Co-Creation and Co-Governance of NbS

User-friendly interactive digital guide for co-governance knowledge in urban NbS	Tannya Pico, TF6, JUSTNature
Online Co-creation Decision Support System	Sean Bradley, TF6, CLEVER Cities

Networking Table 3 - Developing NbS Education and Training Modules for Different Target Groups

Understanding the role of gender and intersectionality in NbS projects across European regions	Natalia Brack, TF4, NBRACER
NBS 101 for Environmental Journalists	Phyllis Posy, TF4, EcoAdvance
Promoting and mainstreaming NBS in teacher education	Ivelina Ivanova, TF5, NBS EduWORLD; on behalf of Christina Galani, TF5, NBS Academy
Training on Innovative NbS for climate change adaptation	Alessandra Marchese, TF4, RECONECT
A Film on Just Nature-based Transformations	Misagh Mottaghi, TF5, ARCADIA; UNP plus, NATURESCAPE

Networking Table 4 - AI Support Tools for NbS Projects	
NatureTalk: AI-Powered Chatbot Module to facilitate access to EU-Funded NBS Research	Tom Mackenzie, TF4, URBiNAT
Networking Table 5 - Understanding Challenges and Activities of Nature-based Enterprises	
Accelerating the nature positive economy	Pierre Cattoire, TF3, CLEARING HOUSE, NBRacer, GoNaturePositive! and EDAPHOS
Networking Table 6 - Insurance in the Context of NbS	
Innovative wildfire insurance to support adaptation measures in Portugal	Stefano Ceolotto, TF3, PIISA
Public procurement of locally tailored insurance scheme	Jaroslav Mysiak, TF3, NATURANCE
Networking Table 7 - NbS Spatial Planning	
Research paper on `NBS spatial planning - Urban Planning (under cross-cutting workstream)	María Carmen García Mateo, TF2, TF3, TF6, GO GREEN ROUTES
Networking Table 8 - NbS Impact Evaluation tools	
NBS Impact Evaluation - KPI Selection Tool	Marcel Cardinali, TF2, URBiNAT
Networking Table 9 - Citizen Science for NbS	
Open tool for urban ecosystem valuation through citizen science	Derique Mikhail Casio, TF3, JustNature
Using citizen science to identify obsolete barriers and restore river connectivity	Carlos García de Leaniz, TF1, TF2, AMBER
Networking Table 10 - Regenerative Tourism for NbS	
Regenerative Tourism boosting NBS restoration	Umberto Pernice, TF3, REST-COAST

Annex III: SFSSC - TG on NbS Recommendations

CEN/CENELEC/ETSI SECTOR FORUM ON SMART SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

– TASK GROUP ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS –

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Introduction

On 28/03/22 the CEN/CENELEC/ETSI Sector Forum on SSCC voted in favour of the creation of an ad hoc Task Group on Nature-Based Solutions. The TG had the ultimate goal to identify possible standardization needs on NBSs throughout the Standardization Bodies involved within the SF and propose recommendations to their Technical Bodies on which standardization activities should be activated and how to prioritize them within their work programmes. Giacomo Riccio (UNI) and Efren Feliu (UNE) were chosen as co-convenors of the TG.

2. Summary of the TG working activities

In order to meet the expected goals the TG equipped itself with a three-pillars strategy adopted on 27/05/22: mapping of the existent state of the art, identification of the needs and recommendations drafting (see fig.1).
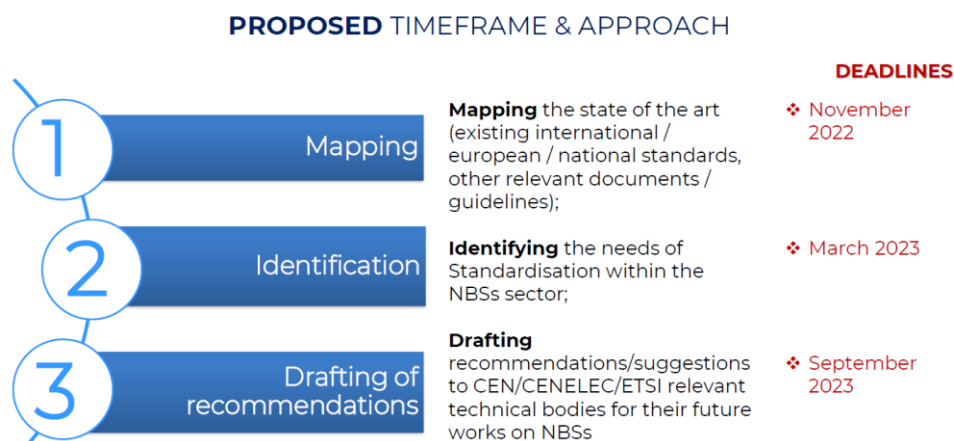

Fig.1 TG Proposed timeframe and approach

The TG started working on the first pillar on March 2022 and ended the analysis on November 2022. Among many existing studies, publications and researches, the Network Nature's Classification (henceforth: NN) was put to the attention of the TG members and became the basis of its activities.

The TG started working on the second pillar on December 2022 and ended its identification of the standardization needs on May 2023. The exercise was based on previous analysis. TG members were first asked to list possible standardization needs stemming from previous mapping and then they were asked to prioritize them. The results have been thoroughly discussed during TG meetings.

The TG started working on the third and final pillar after the approval of priorities. The TG recommendations first draft was written by Giacomo Riccio, Efren Feliu and Saioa Zorita and shared within the TG for discussion on 25/07/23.

3. Recommendations

TG recommendations of standardization activities to be initiated within CEN-CENELEC-ETSI Technical Bodies, listed by priority, are the following:

List of topics in priority order and brief description

Based on the received inputs via a survey and dialogue in the ad hoc Task Group on Nature-Based Solutions the list of priorities are:

Standard theme	Priority
Terminology	High
Technical References and Standards	High
Protocols for Assessing Effectiveness	Medium-High
NbS Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy	Medium
NbS Planning Processes	Medium
Policy and Governance Processes	Low-Medium

General explanation of the classification

The findings from the CLEVER Cities desk research and feedback received from the interactive exchange with experts form NetworkNature and ad hoc Task Group on Nature-Based Solutions indicate a need for different standard types to comprehensively address various thematic spheres related to accounting for NbS from a holistic perspective. These standards can be summarized as follows:

• **Terminology:** Develop a standardised terminology for NbS to ensure clear and consistent communication among stakeholders. This may include not only a common definition of NbS and key terms related to its implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, but characterisation criteria o typology of NbS and a list, as e.g. annex, of examples of NbS.

• **Technical References and Standards:** Establish a comprehensive set of technical references and standards for NbS, which could be derived from the list of examples given in the terminology standard. These should cover various aspects such as design principles, performance criteria and implementation guidelines.

• **Protocols for Assessing Effectiveness:** Develop robust protocols for assessing the effectiveness of different NbS. This protocol should consider not only environmental effectiveness but also benefit-cost analysis or cost efficiency for example. It should provide a systematic framework for evaluating the performance and impacts of NbS in different contexts.

• **NbS Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy:** Define a monitoring and evaluation strategy specific to NbS. Consider the unique characteristics and challenges associated with assessing the impact of NbS interventions, such as long-term ecological benefits, social and cultural impacts, and economic value. This strategy should include indicators, data collection methods, and evaluation frameworks tailored to NbS.

- **NbS Planning Processes:** Establish a planning process to incorporate NbS into the broader framework of environmental and sustainable objectives. This process should ensure that NbS is systematically considered in urban and regional planning, land use management, and infrastructure development. Develop guidelines and tools to support decision-makers in integrating NbS effectively. Establish guidelines for replication and upscaling of NbS. The guidelines should address both the process-related aspects (e.g., identifying opportunities for replication, coordinating efforts) and assessment-related aspects (e.g., evaluating the effectiveness and impact of scaled-up NbS).

- **Policy and Governance Processes:** Establish different standards that (i) strengthen collaborative governance by finding the optimal composition of stakeholder groups and enhancing horizontal and vertical coordination, including a process to allow improved horizontal and vertical governance for the long-term operation and maintenance of the NbS, (ii) implement collaborative processes such as co-design and co-monitoring to ensure NbS relevance and effectiveness in achieving the desired benefits, increasing local ownership and support, and (iii) empower local communities, as observed in the CLEVER Cities project.

Additional considerations

The outputs of the survey carried out during the NetworkNature Semester on nature-based solutions and Standards can be seen in Figure 2. This is the base of the work discussed during the ad hoc Task Group on Nature-Based Solutions.
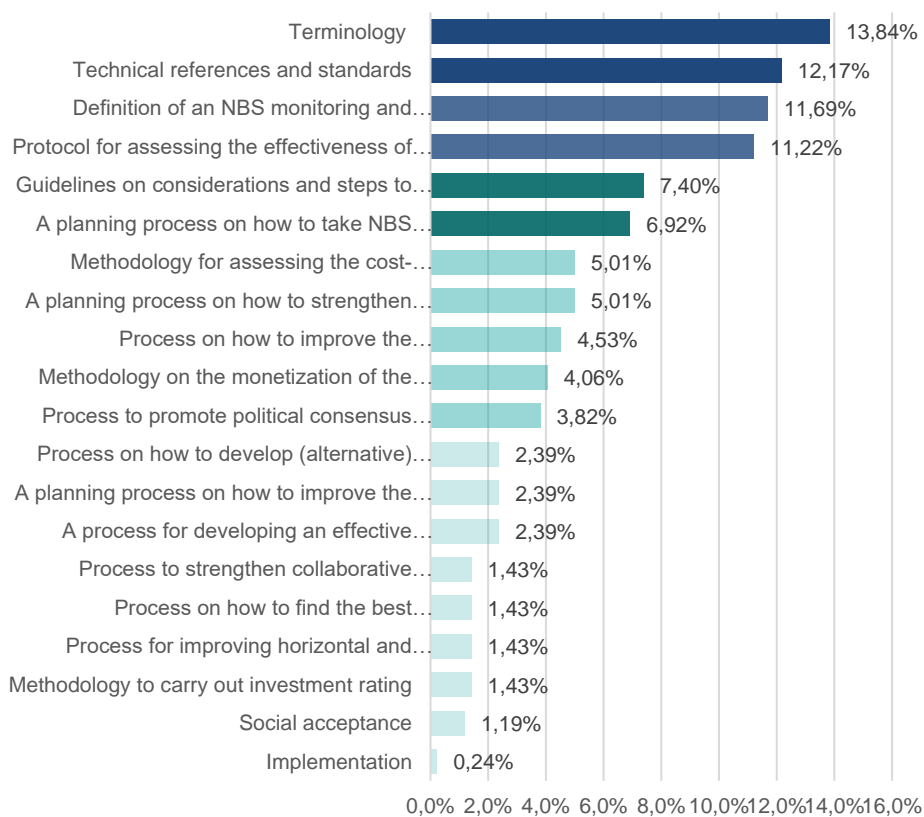

Figure 2. Prioritisation considering the highest priority among the selection of 5 standardisable elements/processes

4. Final remarks

The TG has been working in parallel with the creation of a Working Group (WG) within one of the CEN/CENELEC/ETSI TCs addressing NBS-related standardization activities: CEN/TC 465 *Sustainable and Smart Cities and Communities*. Within this TC, UNE-UNI proposed, with the support of the TC Board, the creation of a Working Group dedicated to NBSs and managed to secure the activation of a first work item on NBS terminology. The CEN/TC465/WG01 *Nature-Based Solutions* had its kick-off meeting on 20/07 and is planning to deliver the first Working Draft by September 2023.

During the first WG meeting many experts suggested to ensure the activation of liaison with other CEN/TCs (e.g. CEN/TC467 on Climate Change), ISO/TCs (e.g. ISO/TC 331 on Biodiversity) and international organization (e.g. UNEA). The establishment of such liaisons and the involvement of the widest number of experts are essential conditions for the success of this standardization activity and the opening of a possible series of standards dedicated to NBS that could go beyond terminology and address other main related topics, as emerged from the TG classification results.

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.