



NbSI NEWSLETTER

March 2020, Issue 5

Keeping the Super Year for Nature super

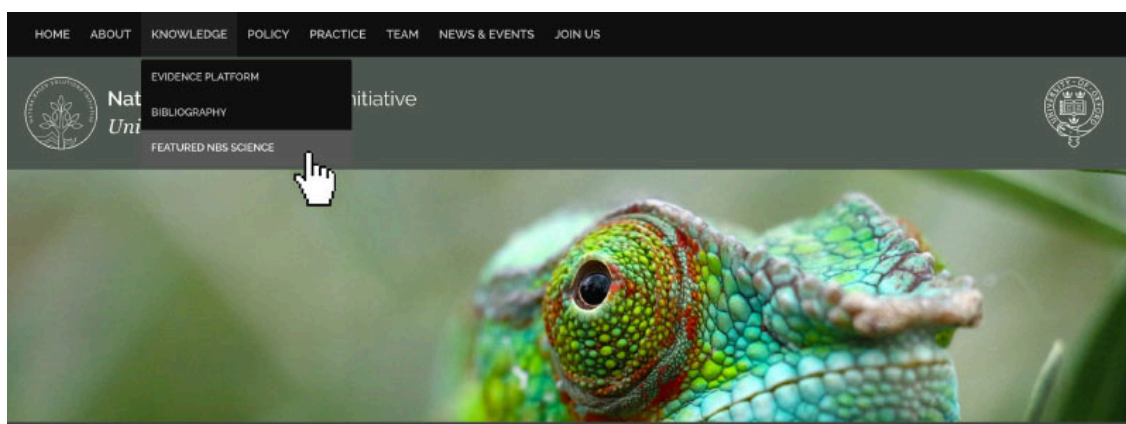
Since our last newsletter, a great deal has happened in the world of climate change and Nature-based Solutions (NbS). The Zero Draft of the Biodiversity Framework was released and discussed in Rome, tree planting has continued to steal journalists' attention, and we have been discussing what good NbS look like with MPs in the UK and Germany. When the CoP26 President, Alok Sharma, came into office in January, we provided him with a [set of guiding principles](#) for successful, sustainable NbS in a letter signed by 20 UK-based research, conservation and development organisations. We summarise these developments here and provide links to the latest NbS science and policy.

We are determined to ensure this remains a Super Year for Nature despite the challenges and uncertainties associated with COVID-19. Key climate and biodiversity events are moving online, our own included, and plans and schedules are being overhauled. You can keep up to speed with the world of NbS via our website, social media and newsletters over the coming weeks and months. We will persevere in our efforts to ensure effective climate and biodiversity action, and find new, powerful ways of maintaining momentum and guiding policy.

If you would like to subscribe to our email newsletter be sure to [add your email to the subscribe box](#) on the home page of our site!



NbS SCIENCE



In January, we added a new page to our website, with brief summaries of [recent scientific papers](#) that bring important insights to the study and practice of NbS.

Some featured papers include:

[Greater stability of carbon capture in species-rich natural forests compared to species-poor plantations](#) | Osuri et al. 2019. *Environmental Research Letters*

[Working on the boundaries—How do science use and interpret the nature-based solution concept?](#) | Hanson et al. 2020. *Land Use Policy*

[National mitigation potential from natural climate solutions in the tropics](#) | Griscom et al. 2020. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*.

For more recent papers on nature-based solutions, [visit our interactive NbS bibliography](#).



NbS IN POLICY



We summarise key developments in national and international policy relating to NbS, as well as high profile reports on the new [Featured NbS in Policy](#) page.

This month we include:

[Global Biodiversity Framework](#): this sets out international goals for biodiversity conservation up to 2050. The Zero Draft was released in January and revised in February, but much work is needed before the document is finalised later this year if we are to stem global biodiversity loss.

[UK Government Budget 2020](#): the new Budget includes several commitments to biodiversity conservation and climate action, but faced criticism from scientists.

[Nationally Determined Contributions](#) to the Paris Agreement: four countries have submitted updated NDCs so far; developed, highly polluting countries are still not pulling their weight.

[Absolute Zero Report](#): This report summarises actions required to deliver net-zero emissions in the UK by 2050, assuming that technologies like Carbon Capture & Storage are not developed at scale.



NbS IN ACTION



We have updated and expanded the [case studies on our website](#) to include 15 diverse examples split into 5 broad contexts: coastal, montane, lowland, agriculture and cities. We hope that these provide useful insights into the range of types of NbS that have already been successfully implemented, and some of the challenges that these projects face.

This month we include:

[Peatland restoration in Belarus](#) - Belarus is leading the way for peat restoration in Europe. Peatlands cover about 23% of the country, but most of it is degraded or drained.

[Rangeland rehabilitation in Kenya](#) - Land degradation is a widespread problem in Sub-Saharan Africa, with much of the agricultural soil highly degraded.

[Urban NbS in Amsterdam](#) - A mile-long park is being constructed along a highly polluted street in Amsterdam, incorporating multiple nature-based solutions.



NbS IN THE NEWS



This month we feature 3 key pieces of NbS news. For more, explore the [NbS in the News](#) page on our site.

[World Economic Forum focusses on the dependency of businesses on nature](#) - The WEF calls for a shift towards “nature-positive economy”but will it own the role of big business in the climate and nature crisis and ensure the radical economic transformation needed?

[Companies are warming to NbS, but we must be cautious of greenwashing](#) - Greenbiz magazine describes nature-based solutions as leveraging ‘nature’s inherent genius’. Nature loss puts companies’ supply chains, reputation and financial security at risk, and companies are starting to realise this

[Malaysia’s forgotten ecosystem: peatland](#) - Whilst halting the loss of tropical forest in Malaysia is clearly a global priority, the 1.54 million hectares of remaining peat swamp attract less media attention.



NbSI NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Keep up-to-date with the NbSI on our [NbSI announcements](#) page.

[NbS letter to UNFCCC CoP26 president](#) - In a letter to RT Hon. Alok Sharma MP, we outlined the key messages for implementation of successful NbS, signed by 20 climate, nature and research organisations.

[European Commission workshop on mobilising up-scaling on NbS for climate action](#) - NbSI's Alex Chausson was in Brussels discussing the growing global consensus on the importance of addressing climate change and biodiversity loss together. The workshop addressed issues around policy coherence and highlighted how alignment with the SDGs can be achieved through active collaboration across sectors.

[NbSI discusses Nature-based Solutions with MPs in Westminster](#) - Together with Oxford colleagues, Michelle Cain and Michael Obersteiner, NbSI's Nathalie Seddon took part in a roundtable meeting at the Palace of Westminster to discuss "Achieving Net Zero: The Role of Land"

[NbSI in the German Bundestag](#) - We were invited by Green MP Steffi Lemke to share our understanding about Nature-based Solutions with a wide-ranging group of politicians, practitioners and scientists in the German Bundestag. This was part of a hearing on the importance of (and limits to) working with nature as a climate solution. There was much discussion about the vital importance of peatlands for climate change mitigation and adaptation in Germany and the world in general.



NbS CONFERENCE 2021

Nature-based Solutions in a Changing Climate Conference, postponed to 6-8 July 2021

As many of you will know, we have postponed the Nature-based Solutions in a Changing Climate Conference to **July 2021**. This delay gives us the greatest chance of keeping our conference and its fantastic line-up of speakers intact. However, we are also **hosting a virtual event 7-9 July this year** to discuss the key issues around NbS and feed these into the UN summits on biodiversity and climate change later in 2020. We hope you will be able to join us for this virtual event; we will soon be updating the conference website with further information: www.naturebasedsolutionsoxford.org



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