



# NbSI NEWSLETTER

May 2020, Issue 6

The COVID-19 pandemic has tragically taken hundreds of thousands of lives and has been catastrophic for many societies and their economies. There have been some positive environmental outcomes, such as a temporary dip in greenhouse gas emissions and reduced air pollution. However, there are also [negative](#) impacts. For example, both [deforestation and hunting of wild animals](#) are reported to have increased, including a rise in agricultural expansion and illegal mining in Colombian and Brazilian forest, and surges in bushmeat and ivory harvests in Kenya. These changes are attributed to food shortages, [financial insecurity](#), the cessation of [wildlife tourism](#), and the weakening of [indigenous rights laws](#) in Brazil.

Set against this bleak picture, however, a more positive narrative is emerging. Many researchers, politicians, business leaders and campaigners agree that the recovery phase provides a window of opportunity to transform societies and the economy for the better. For example, in a [recent letter](#) to the UK government, 60 CEOs requested green recovery plans that stabilise the climate, protect and restore biodiverse ecosystems, and build societies in which people's needs are met in a sustainable manner. [Nature-based solutions play a vital role](#) in this transition.

In addition to general updates on NbS, in this newsletter we highlight recent items from science, policy and practice which inform how NbS can contribute to a nature-positive recovery.

*If you would like to subscribe, please sign up on the [newsletter page](#) of our site, where you can also find an archive of past issues.*

# NbS DIGITAL DIALOGUES 2020



On **7-9th July 2020**, we are holding a digital event, [NbS Digital Dialogues](#), to discuss the most pressing issues around implementing successful, sustainable nature-based solutions at scale. We will be discussing [four guiding principles for successful, sustainable NbS](#), as well as cross-cutting issues around financing and governing NbS. We aim to consolidate our international understanding of how NbS should be implemented and increase the coherence of messaging around NbS. Together, we will draw conclusions that help inform COVID-19 recovery plans and the UN summits on climate and biodiversity in 2021.

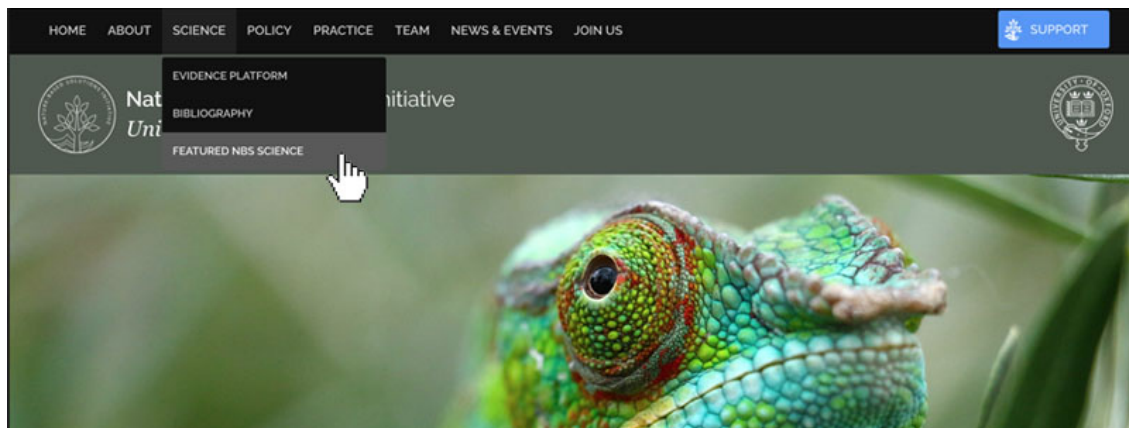
The event will comprise [six sessions over three days](#), involving keynotes by Christiana Figueres, Musonda Mumba and Sandra Lavorel, panels and poster presentations. We will hear the perspectives of researchers, policymakers and practitioners who are paving the way for sustainability in their respective fields, with ample opportunity for Q&A with our global audience. The event will be accessible to all with internet access; [you can register here](#).

## Call for posters

Three posters will be presented as part of each Digital Dialogues session, and we will be displaying a larger set of posters online. We are still accepting poster applications - if you would like to submit a poster which complements one of our [six sessions](#), please send an abstract to [nbsconference@zoo.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nbsconference@zoo.ox.ac.uk).

If you would like to sponsor our events or support the work of the NbSI in other ways, please visit our [Support Us](#) page or [donate](#) directly.

# NbS SCIENCE



Take a look at our featured [NbS Science page](#), where we add digestible summaries of recent papers which make important contributions to the rapidly growing body of knowledge about NbS.

Recent featured papers include:

[Multi-dimensional well-being associated with economic dependence on ecosystem services in deltaic social-ecological systems of Bangladesh](#) | Adams et al. 2020 *Regional Environmental Change*

[Valuation of Ecosystem Services from an Important Wetland of Nepal: A Study from Begnas Watershed System](#) | Thapa et al. 2020 *Ecosystem Services of Wetlands*

[The Global Flood Protection Benefits of Mangroves](#) | Menendez et al. 2020 *Scientific Reports*

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 our [Featured NbS in Policy](#) page. This month we've included:

[Green recovery programmes to benefit both nature and people](#) - An example from the US shows that ecosystem restoration has the potential to create jobs on a grand scale, which will be needed in many countries in the wake of the pandemic. An annual federal investment of \$4-4.5 billion for 20 years could restore up to 60 billion trees, and create over 150,000 jobs.

[Decision making for effective, efficient & equitable social forestry](#) - The Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific has compiled knowledge on how to conduct effective, efficient, and equitable social forestry in Southeast Asia in their recently-launched Knowledge Tree.

[The Role of Land in Achieving Net Zero](#) - We co-authored a briefing paper looking at the contribution of nature-based solutions and other aspects of land use to achieving net-zero emissions in the UK; it includes policies to evaluate based on the Committee on Climate Change recommendations.

# NbS IN ACTION



The [case study page](#) on our website showcases diverse examples of NbS in practice. This month we added a new category of case studies, “NbS for economic recovery”, showcasing nature-based interventions which bring income and well-being benefits to local communities. Here, we highlight three key examples.

[Market-oriented agroforestry in Nepal](#) increased household income by 37-48%, providing six months of additional food in the poorest households, and lifted 63% of poverty households out of the poverty cycle.

[Assisted Natural Regeneration in Burkina Faso](#) provided forest products for local people, improving their well-being and income, whilst also benefiting biodiversity.

[Marine Protected Areas in Vanuatu](#) increased food availability and income for communities following a devastating cyclone of 2015.

# NbS IN THE NEWS



This month we feature three important pieces of news about NbS. For more, please explore the [NbS in the News](#) page on our website.

[Analysis of oil company net-zero plans reveals insufficiencies](#) - The Transition Pathway Initiative has examined the emissions reduction plans of six European oil and gas companies, revealing that all of the companies rely to an extent on negative emissions from nature-based solutions and artificial carbon capture, yet none of their commitments are consistent with a 1.5°C scenario.

[Green commitments from big business?](#) - The first four months of 2020 have seen a rise in notable commitments from big businesses to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and in some cases stem biodiversity loss. We must scrutinize these commitments and ensure that they lead to net benefits for biodiversity and the climate.

[Indigenous stewards of nature](#) - This article tells the story of five indigenous individuals who are using their rich ecological knowledge, accumulated over generations, for adapting to the changing climate.

# NbSI NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

[Global recognition of the importance of nature-based solutions to the impacts of climate change](#) - Our paper, just out in the journal *Global Sustainability*, reports on a major analysis of the role of NbS in the climate pledges (NDCs) of all signatories to the Paris Agreement. Conducted in collaboration with colleagues from conservation and development, the study reveals that 66% of signatories include intentions to work with nature to address climate change. Yet intentions rarely translate into measurable, evidence-based targets. As nations revise their NDCs, we argue that NbS are key to meeting global goals for climate and biodiversity, and we urge researchers to work more closely with policy-makers to identify targets that benefit both people and ecosystems.

[Global call for nature-based solutions scale-up](#) Together with leading figures from business, climate change policy, academia and environmental NGOs, we have signed an open letter calling for governments and organisations globally to 'take Nature-based Solutions to scale' in the wake of the pandemic.

[Open letter to global leaders: a healthy planet for healthy people](#) - We signed an open letter by The Club of Rome calling for the response to the current global health and financial crises to address biodiversity loss and climate change.

## NbS EVENTS

See more NbS-relevant events on our [events page](#).

**22 May** - [Nature-based solutions for climate change: from global ambition to local action](#) - International Institute for Environment and Development

**3-5 June** - [GLF Bonn Digital Conference 2020: Food in the time of crises](#) - Global Landscapes Forum

**11 June** - [Natural Flood Management: a land manager's perspective](#) - National Trust, UK