



# NbSI NEWSLETTER

December 2020, Issue 8

Nature-based solutions are becoming ever-more prominent in scientific research, the media, and the public and private sectors. The last couple of months have been packed with online conferences discussing the place of nature in addressing the climate crisis and COVID recovery plans. There have been numerous new pledges making financial and material commitments to nature-based solutions and broader climate action. The potential synergies between biodiversity and climate are becoming more widely recognised, with enhanced collaboration between these sectors being seen as a priority for the coming year in the build up to the UNFCCC CoP26. In this newsletter we highlight and dissect developments in NbS research, policy and practice, as well as relevant news items, with a focus on take-home messages from recent conferences.

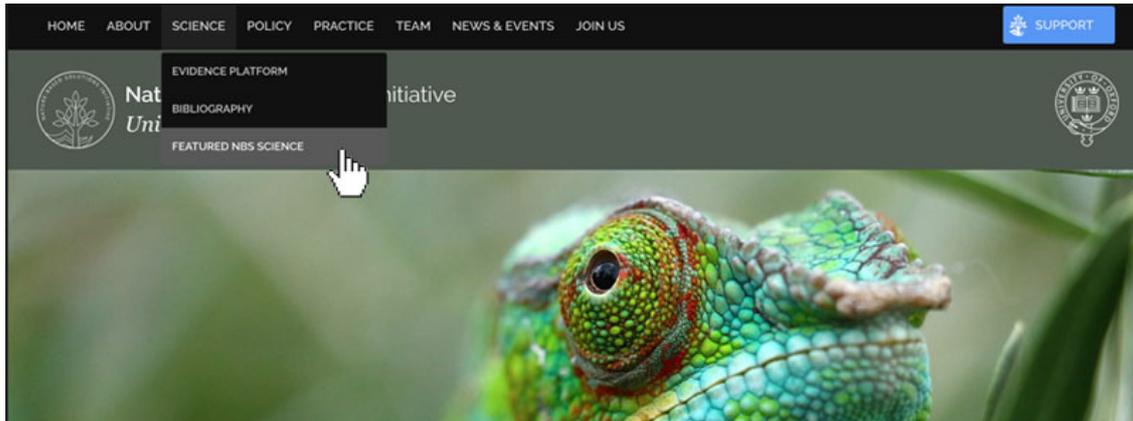
*If you would like to subscribe to our newsletter, please sign up on our [website](#), where you can also find an archive of past issues.*

## DIGITAL DIALOGUES SUMMARIES



In July we hosted an online conference where we discussed the four guiding principles for successful, sustainable nature-based solutions. Summaries with key take-home messages from [each of the sessions are now available to read](#). The [recordings are also all available](#) to watch and share for free.

# NbS SCIENCE



Three of these studies indicate that strong synergies exist between NbS outcomes for climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation. Strassburg et al. look at the effects of restoration of multiple different terrestrial ecosystems on carbon and biodiversity; Cook-Patton et al. report on the carbon accumulation rates from forest restoration; and De Lamo et al. investigate the effects of conservation actions to meet biodiversity targets on carbon storage.

[Global priority areas for ecosystem restoration](#) Strassburg et al. 2020 *Nature*

[Mapping carbon accumulation potential from global natural forest regrowth](#) Cook-Patton et al. 2020 *Nature*

[Strengthening synergies: how action to achieve post-2020 global biodiversity conservation targets can contribute to mitigating climate change](#) De Lamo et al. 2020 *UNEP-WCMC*

[The greenhouse gas offset potential from seagrass restoration](#) Oreska et al. 2020 *Scientific Reports*

[Climate reverses directionality in the richness–abundance relationship across the World’s main forest biomes](#) Madrigal-González et al. 2020 *Nature Communications*

We have added ten new studies to our [online bibliography](#), which you can filter for habitat type, location, and societal challenge addressed by the NbS.

# NbS IN POLICY

On our [Featured NbS in Policy](#) page, we summarise recent NbS-related developments in national and international policy. Below are three highlights.

[Leaders' pledge for nature](#) Political leaders from 79 nations signed a pledge calling for a global scale-up of ambition to protect biodiversity to help avert the planetary emergency we face.

[UK Nature Recovery Network launch](#) The new government initiative aiming to expand, improve and connect wildlife-rich places across towns, cities and the countryside in the UK.

[The role of nature in the UK NDC](#) A new report makes science-based recommendations on how to include nature in an updated UK Nationally Determined Contribution.



# NbS IN ACTION



Explore the [NbS Case Studies](#) page of our website to find summaries of a rich variety of examples of NbS in the field. These examples show how NbS can be implemented successfully to provide multiple benefits for nature and people, but also demonstrate barriers to success and how these may be overcome.

[Rewilding farmland in the Solent, UK](#) will be used as an offsetting scheme for nitrate pollution from a local housing development.

[Coffee farm restoration and infiltration ditches in El Salvador](#) will reduce the risk of flooding and mudslides in the face of increasingly intense storms.

[Landscape restoration in Lake District, UK](#) is improving water quality whilst boosting biodiversity and supporting local enterprise.

# NbS IN THE NEWS



Here we are featuring six pieces of NbS news. For more, explore [NbS in the News](#).

[Global Landscapes Forum Biodiversity Conference on One World - One Health](#) This event focused on the need to ensure that human health is an objective of the landscape approach, amongst many other discussions on land use and nature-based solutions.

[UNFCCC Race to Zero Dialogues](#) In place of an in-person conference this year, the UNFCCC hosted a set of online dialogues to discuss how we can 'race' to zero greenhouse gas emissions and zero harm to biodiversity.

[UN Biodiversity summit](#) The theme of this international meeting was Urgent action on biodiversity for sustainable development.

[United Nations General Assembly \(UNGA\)](#) Several significant announcements from governments and corporations were made during the UNGA and the co-occurring Climate Week NYC.

[Science Based Targets for Nature \(SBTN\)](#) New guidance for companies to enable them to make science-based targets for reducing their impact on natural ecosystems.

[New Taskforce on Scaling Voluntary Carbon Markets](#) This initiative aims to scale an effective and efficient voluntary carbon market; one important component of this is ensuring that NbS are incorporated in a safe way.



# NbSI NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Keep up to date with the activities of the Nature-based Solutions Initiative on our [announcements page](#). Below are some recent highlights.

[NbS in a Changing Climate Conference](#) - date confirmation in January

We will be holding an [online-in person hybrid conference](#) at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, bringing researchers together with policymakers, civil society actors and business leaders to discuss the potential of NbS to meet societal goals in a warming world. We aim to confirm in January whether the conference will proceed 6-8 July 2021, or whether further postponement will be necessary.

[Peru Digital Dialogues](#) Two days of dialogues on NbS in Peru were held in October - read a summary and watch the recordings in Spanish.

[Launch of NbS Peru](#) Nature-based Solutions Peru officially launched in October. The initiative aims to consolidate evidence on the potential of NbS to address multiple societal challenges in Peru, to scale ambition for NbS in national policy and public-private investment. It also acts as a community of practice for NbS in Peru, to enable exchange of understanding and good practice. Visit the website to find out more and join the community of practice if you are interested.

[NbS Bangladesh News](#)

We highlight a new perspective piece on [nature & the SDGs](#) for UNEP; [policy brief](#) on a roadmap for NbS in Bangladesh; NbS in the [community-based adaptation conference](#); NbS in Bangladesh in the upcoming [Gobeshona conference](#).

[Join the NbS Bangladesh Network](#)

The Network is a community of researchers, practitioners and policymakers working at the interface of climate change, nature conservation and sustainable development.



# NbSI TEAM NEWS

[Launch of Oxford Net Zero](#) This is a new interdisciplinary research initiative which combines Oxford's existing research body with research fellows from around the world to advance solutions for reaching net zero emissions; this will include a senior research fellow in nature-based solutions - a position that we will be advertising soon.

[Race to Zero Dialogues: Nature's Place in the Race](#) Cécile Girardin and Nathalie Seddon spoke at the UNFCCC's day of dialogues dedicated to NbS.

[Beth Turner starts PhD on NbS and resilience](#) Beth will be exploring how forest landscape restoration can contribute to socio-ecological resilience to global changes with study sites in Bolivia and Canada.

[Recent and upcoming talks from Nathalie Seddon, NbSI Director](#) Nathalie has given talks tackling various aspects of NbS, from coastal resilience, and the importance of peatlands, to nature-based approaches to CO2 removal and how to enhance progress on NbS in the run-up to COP26.

[NbSI team present systematic map findings at WWF climate and energy network](#) Alexandre Chausson, Beth Turner, and Nicole Chabaneix, presented the findings of the global evidence-mapping assessment on the effectiveness of NbS for climate change adaptation.

[Stephen Woroniecki published an article on overcoming dualistic framing in sustainability research](#) Stephen co-authored a paper which uses ecosystem-based adaptation case studies to suggest how we might transcend dualistic thinking between people and nature in sustainability science.

*Copyright © NbSI 2020*

**Nature-based Solutions Initiative**  
Department of Zoology  
University of Oxford  
OX1 3PS

**email:** [nathalie.seddon@zoo.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nathalie.seddon@zoo.ox.ac.uk)  
**tel:** +44 (0)1865 774 432