



# NbSI NEWSLETTER

February 2021, Issue 9

This year marks the start of a decade widely regarded to be pivotal for the future of humanity. As climate change and biodiversity loss accelerate, there is global recognition that now is the time to take collective action and reach ambitious targets for protecting and restoring natural ecosystems and sustainably managing our working lands and seas. Such nature-based solutions were high on the agenda at both the World Economic Forum and the Climate Adaptation Summit in January and will play a key role at the upcoming global summits on climate, biodiversity, desertification and food. The NbS community is working hard to ensure that evidence-based targets for NbS are fully aligned across different international policy processes and meet [robust guidelines](#) based on best-practice. In this newsletter, we bring you highlights of recent research and policy developments relating to NbS, feature some best-practice case studies and highlight new research and education opportunities with the NbSI.

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.

## We are hiring!

**Senior Research Fellow in NbS:** Exciting new position to work on the role of nature-based solutions in achieving net-zero, based in the NbSI and working with the Environmental Change Institute as part of the new Oxford Net Zero initiative. Apply by 1st March.

## NbS RESEARCH

HOME ABOUT RESEARCH POLICY CASE STUDIES TEAM NEWS JOIN US SUPPORT

Nat Uni EVIDENCE PLATFORM initiative BIBLIOGRAPHY FEATURED NBS RESEARCH

NbSI publication: Getting the message right on nature-based solutions to climate change

Learn more

Take a look at our [Featured NbS Research](#) page where we add digestible summaries of recent studies which make important contributions to the body of knowledge on NbS. Below are some recent highlights from the peer-reviewed literature:

[Ten golden rules for reforestation to optimize carbon sequestration, biodiversity recovery and livelihood benefits](#) Di Sacco and Hardwick et al. 2021 Global Change Biology

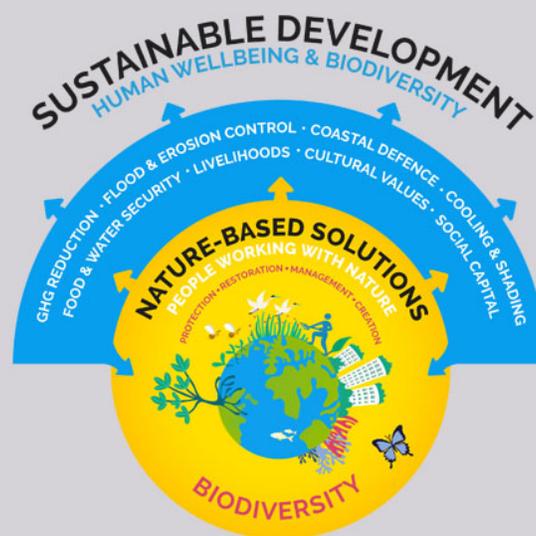
[Transdisciplinary science for improved conservation outcomes](#) Margules et al. 2020 Environmental Conservation

[Evaluating nature-based solutions for climate mitigation and conservation requires comprehensive carbon accounting](#) Keith et al. 2021 Science of The Total Environment

[Anthropogenic modification of forests means only 40% of remaining forests have high ecosystem integrity](#) Grantham et al. 2020 Nature Communications

[The economic costs of planting, preserving, and managing the world's forests to mitigate climate change](#) Austin et al. 2020 Nature Communications

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



[Our open-access review](#), published on 01 Feb in the journal Global Change Biology, brings together the evidence that supports [the four guidelines for sustainable, successful NbS](#). It provides clarity on how to reduce the risks and ensure the benefits of NbS, addresses the issues of greenwashing and poorly-planned projects, and discusses how to help channel policy and funding towards successful, sustainable NbS. We have also developed a new NbS infographic which we hope will enhance understanding of the concept. Read [our summary](#).

# 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.

[US re-joins the Paris Agreement, signalling a new era of international climate politics.](#) The US will submit an updated NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution) this year and reverse measures that weakened environmental laws during the Trump administration.

[UK submits an updated Nationally Determined Contribution \(NDC\) to the Paris Agreement.](#) The UK has committed to reducing domestic greenhouse gas emissions by 68% by 2030 compared to a 1990 baseline, excluding emissions from aviation, shipping and imports.

[UK submits its first Adaptation Communication to the Paris Agreement.](#) Management of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems features prominently as part of the UK's strategy for adaptation.

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# NbS IN ACTION



[Explore the NbS Case Studies](#) page of our website to find summaries of a rich variety of examples of NbS in action from around the world. 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.

[Cairngorms Connect:](#) A partnership between land managers in Scotland to improve 600km<sup>2</sup> of land by promoting natural processes, expanding woodlands and restoring peat bogs. The project aims to boost biodiversity, enhance carbon stores and provide livelihoods for local people.

[Regreening Kenya:](#) A project that aims to initiate restoration activities in 150,000 hectares of degraded land by 2022 and improve the livelihoods of 50,000 smallholders. The project uses a community-centred approach, with a focus on agroforestry.

[Bunloit Wildlands:](#) Landscape-scale implementation of nature-based solutions involving the restoration of 1200 hectares of land to increase biodiversity, enhance carbon sequestration, and provide sustainable livelihoods.

[Gorla Maggiore water park](#): A multipurpose urban park in Italy that provides a recreational space alongside reed beds to treat water during sewer overflows and a retention basin to prevent flooding.

## NbS IN THE NEWS



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

[One World, One Health: Recommendations to harness the power of landscapes](#). A report from the Global Landscape Forum providing recommendations on how to achieve biodiversity and restoration targets through the landscape approach.

[Building a resilient economy: analysing options for systemic change to transform the world's economic and financial systems after the pandemic](#). This report, led by WWF, outlines policies that could support the transformation of the UK economic system towards sustainability.

[Nature and Net Zero](#). A report from the World Economic Forum and McKinsey exploring the potential and challenges associated with national climate solutions; this is the partner document to the blueprint of the Tasforce on Scaling Voluntary Carbon Markets.

[NbS issue of the Dhaka Climate Tribune](#). This Bangladesh-based newspaper featured nine articles about NbS, covering social, physical and financial aspects.

[Climate Adaptation Summit: NbS session & Adaptation Action Agenda launch](#). The first ever global summit for climate change adaptation was held in January, with NbS featuring as a central theme.

[Building a net-zero, nature-positive economy](#). A summary of the World Economic Forum session on how to transform the global economy to promote ecological and social wellbeing in the long term.

# NbSI NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Executive Education

This year we will be launching **The Nature-based Solutions to Global Challenges Foundation Course** to enhance awareness and understanding of the science, policy, practice, financing and governance of nature-based solutions. Aimed at current and future public servants, executives and civil society actors, the course will involve a series of interactive lectures delivered by world-leading experts on nature-based solutions and will draw on examples from a wide range of ecological, socioeconomic and political contexts from across the world. The course will be offered as a three-day residential workshop held at the University of Oxford once it is safe to do so and as an online course delivered over 3-6 weeks. Please get in touch if you are interested in taking part.

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## Updated NbS guidelines

Together with our partners, we have [updated the four guidelines for successful, sustainable NbS](#) in line with new research and developments over the past year. We will be promoting the guidelines in the run-up to the UNFCCC's CoP26 and are now inviting additional signatories from across the globe. If you would like to add your organisation as a signatory to this letter please contact Nathalie Seddon: [nathalie.seddon@zoo.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nathalie.seddon@zoo.ox.ac.uk).

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

[Conference postponed to 5-7 July 2022 due to COVID-19](#). We will host a hybrid in-person and online event which will respond to the needs of the NbS research, policy and practice communities following the climate, biodiversity and food summits this year.

[Role of NbS for Climate Change Adaptation in UK Policy](#). This short report, written by the NbSI in collaboration with WWF and RSPB, outlines how NbS can contribute to the UK climate change adaptation strategy.

[NbS Peru](#). Peru has been made a Vanguard Country for the Global Commission on Adaptation and recently launched the process for updating its National Climate Change Strategy.

[NbS at Gobeshona Global Conference - 1](#). A session dedicated to NbS focussed on how to successfully implement NbS in Bangladesh so as to support climate change adaptation, mitigation and sustainable development.

[Value & limits of working with nature to address climate change](#). Prof Nathalie Seddon and Dr Cécile Girardin gave this talk as part of the Oxford Martin School series on net zero, linked to the new initiative, [Oxford Net-Zero](#).

[Youth4Nature online dialogue on nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation](#). This event highlighted the need for local leadership on NbS and for implementation alongside rapid cuts in fossil fuel use.

[NbS on BBC Radio 4](#). Prof Nathalie Seddon spoke on the Today Programme about the importance of getting the message right on NbS, linked to [our new paper](#).

[Pre-COP26 talks on the role of NbS in addressing climate change](#) and the [role of local people and communities in fostering successful NbS](#): Alexandre Chausson (Senior Researcher, NbSI) spoke at these two sessions aimed at clarifying the potential and limits of NbS in advance of COP26.

Website update: we have given our [homepage](#) a makeover! You'll now find updates of our latest research and policy publications, developments in NbS-related policy, and highlighted case studies. We have also grouped all news items into a [single page](#) which can be filtered by topic and we have updated our "[what are nature-based solutions?](#)" page.

If you have any feedback on this Newsletter or website content, please do get in touch.

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